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# HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF SHARON,

LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CONN.

From its first settlement.

BY CHARLES F. SEDGWICK.

HARTFORD.

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PREFACE.

The author of the following pages, was requested by his fellow citizens of the town of Sharon, to prepare an address to be delivered at the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of their first town meeting, on the 22d day of December, 1839. This request was complied with, but the short period in which it was prepared, rendered it, necessarily in many respects, imperfect, and in some, inaccurate. By the advice of many friends he has been induced to embody the facts connected with the history of the town, in the form here presented, and to commit the work to the press for the benefit of the inhabitants of his adopted town. The labor of making the researches has, necessarily, occupied much time, and no effort has been spared to make the work accurate in its details. In preparing sketches of the many citizens of the town, who are brought to notice in the last chapter, the personal history of more than two hundred individuals, many of whom have been dead for a half century, has been investigated, and many names which had long since gone into forgetfulness are brought to light. It is not unlikely that in this part of the work some errors may have intervened, but it is believed, that in almost every instance, accuracy has been attained.

If the work shall prove interesting or useful to the citizens of the town, the labor incurred in its preparation will be well repaid.

SHARON, March, 1842.



# HISTORY

## OF THE

# TOWN OF SHARON.



## CHAPTER I.

Containing a concise history of events which led to the sale and settlement of the township.

THE North-western part of Connecticut, was sold and settled at a much later period than any other portion of the State. As early as the year 1686, nearly all the lands in the colony had been disposed of, except those lying north of *Waterbury* and *Woodbury*, and west of *Simsbury*. Under the Charter of Charles II., obtained in 1652, the colony of Connecticut, though nominally dependant on the crown, enjoyed, in fact, a strictly Republican form of government; the only service they were required to render to the crown of England, being the one fifth part of the produce of such mines of gold and silver as should be discovered. Charles was succeeded by his brother, James II., a prince of very arbitrary and vindictive propensities, and no sooner was he firmly seated on his throne, than he began to manifest his tyrannical disposition by causing the charters, which had been granted by his

predecessors, to be vacated, and by assuming to himself the right of appointing governors for the different colonies. It was feared by the people, that these Royal governors would seize upon all the public lands which had not been sold and granted by the colony, and measures were taken to prevent such unjustifiable proceedings. It was believed, that if the public lands were sold, and the title to them guarantied by the governor and company of the colony, they could not be seized for the king, and under this impression, the lands within the limits just mentioned, were on the 26th day of January, 1686, conveyed to the towns of Hartford and Windsor. The grant, however, did not include the lands west of the Ousatonic River, the assembly probably supposing, that, on account of their great distance from the settled parts of the colony, they were beyond the reach of the royal governor's rapacity. In October, after the grant just mentioned, Sir *Edmund Andross* came into the colony, and by virtue of a commission from King James, took upon himself the administration of the government, and continued in it about two years, or until the deposition of King James, when the people quietly resumed their ancient form of government under the Charter.

The lands above mentioned being deemed of little value, and the more fertile parts of the State being but thinly populated, it was more than thirty years before any attempts were made to settle them. About the year 1722, the public attention was turned to the *western lands*, as they were called; and as they began to rise in value, the towns of Hartford and Windsor laid claim to them, under the ancient grant which had been made to them under the circumstances which have been mentioned. This claim created a strong excitement throughout the colony, and a long and bitter

controversy ensued, which resulted in a division of the lands between the towns and the colony.

This contention with Hartford and Windsor had retarded the sale of the western lands, but that difficulty was now adjusted, and the Assembly took measures, soon after 1730, to effect this object; and for this purpose they were surveyed, and laid out into townships of suitable dimensions. At the session in May, 1732, *Edmund Lewis*, Esq., Capt. *Stephen Noble*, and Mr. *William Gaylord*,\* were appointed a committee to view the colony lands west of the Ousa-tonic River, and to lay out a township in the northern section of them. They were also endowed with discretionary power to lay out a township on the south of the one just mentioned, if, upon viewing the lands, they should be of opinion that they were of such a quality as to render them a desirable place for a new settlement. This committee entered promptly upon their duties; and by their report, dated at New Milford, October 9, 1732, it appears they laid out both townships. The north township, now *Salisbury*, they denominated "*the township of M,*" and the south township they called *N. S.* The remainder of the country lands were afterwards annexed to Kent.—

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\* Mr. *Lewis*, who was placed at the head of this committee belonged to Stratford, and was the County Surveyor of Fairfield County. He had been employed, through the whole of the preceding year, in surveying and running the boundary line between the colony of Connecticut and the province of New York, which was a work of very great labor. He had also been employed, years before, in laying out country grants in the south part of the territory, and of course was well acquainted with all this region of country, then in a state of nature. Mr. *Noble* was the second son of Mr. *John Noble*, of New Milford, who is reputed the first settler of that town. Mr. *Gaylord* was also one of the first settlers of New Milford, and was originally from Windsor. He was the patriarch of the Gaylord family, which settled in the northwest part of that town, called *Gaylord's farms*, or *straights*, in which the Gaylord name still prevails.



The boundaries of the second township are thus described by the committee:—"Then having taken a view of the whole tract, we proceeded and laid out a second township, which begins at the south-west corner of the aforesaid township of M, it being a stake set in the ground, and many stones laid to it, standing on the east side of a pond, as above set forth; and from thence the line runs south  $12\frac{1}{2}$  D. W., with the line of partition between said province of New York, and the colony of Connecticut, nine miles to a heap of stones laid on a rock, in the aforesaid line of partition, and is about two miles east from Captain Sacket's dwelling house,\* which is the south-west corner bounds of said second township,—from thence we run the south line of said second township E.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  D. south four miles and a half and 115 rods, to the Ousatonic River, where we marked a white oak tree, and laid many stones to it, for the south-east corner bounds of said second township, and we have marked many trees and made many monuments in the said south line.—Thus we have surveyed and laid out the township of N. S., and it is bounded north on the township of M., south on the country lands, west on the aforesaid line of partition between the province of New York and the colony of Connecticut, and east on the Ousatonic River." The above work was completed October 7, 1732.†

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\* Captain Sacket lived near Kline's corner, in Oblong, N. York. He was an old sea captain, and was the first white person who lived in *Amenia*, having been settled there as early as 1725.

† The opinion of the committee, as to the quality of the lands west of the Ousatonic River, is here given in their own language, and it will be read with much interest by those who are acquainted with its present condition and value. "Furthermore these may certify the Hon. the General Assembly, that as to the quality of the aforesaid described and laid out lands, in the said townships, we find them like a great part of the rest of the lands in this government, some good and some otherwise; we find the good and fertile lands in the north township to be considerably scattering,

An attempt was made at the session of May, 1733, to sell the new townships which had been laid out in the western lands, and a committee was appointed for that purpose, but it does not appear that any thing was effected. The Hartford and Windsor lands, being more accessible, and nearer to the settled portion of the State, probably afforded a more desirable field for the enterprise of new settlers, and the colony lands were neglected.

At the session in October, 1737, however, the Assembly took effective, and eventually, successful measures to accomplish their object. It was ordered that the townships should be sold at auction, at different times and places, and committees were appointed for that purpose, who were authorised to give deeds to the purchasers.

The township of N. S. was disposed of in the fol-

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and that there are country grants laid out in it to the quantity of about 3,500 acres. There are six ponds in said north township, which we judge, all of them, contain not less than 2,000 acres.— There is at the north-west corner of said township, on *Poconnuck Mount*, a large piece of rough waste land, we think not less than 4,000 acres. The remainder of the lands in said township will, in our judgment, be serviceable for plowing, mowing, and pasturing; and will, with the inhabitants there, and the farms, accommodate a sufficient number of inhabitants for a town.

“In the second township we find two ponds, which may contain 500 acres. There is laid out in it, of country grants, 400 acres, and a considerable quantity of rough land, yet we find such a quantity of feasible lands in it, (and not so much scattering as in the first township,) as will, in our judgment, accommodate a sufficient number of inhabitants for a town.

“The remainder of the country lands there, is about eight miles in length, and at the south end, we judge, about three fourths of a mile wide; which we find, the greatest part of it, to be very rough and mountainous; yet we find some feasible land in it,—which is all at present supposed to be needful by your Honors’ most obedient servants to command.

EDMUND LEWIS, }  
 STEPHEN NOBLE, } Committee.  
 WM. GAYLORD, }

New Milford, October 9, 1732.

lowing manner :—It was divided into fifty-three equal shares, or *rights*, as they were called, of which one was reserved for the use of the ministry, forever, one for the first minister, and one for the support of schools in the township. The remaining fifty rights were ordered to be sold at auction, on the second Wednesday of October, 1738, at New Haven, to actual settlers only. The committee appointed to sell the township, were *Samuel Eels, Esq., Joseph Whiting, Esq., and Captain Isaac Dickerman*. The deeds which this committee executed to the purchasers, are on the town records.\*



## CHAPTER II.

Some account of the Indians who inhabited the territory of Sharon, before its settlement by the whites.

THERE were considerable numbers of Indians residing within what is now the territory of Sharon, be-

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\* The rights sold for about 300 or 350 pounds each, being an average of a little more than 1,000 dollars for each right. There has been divided to each proprietor of a right, more than six hundred acres of land, so that the township sold for a little more than one dollar and fifty cents per acre. The following provision is contained in each deed:—"Always provided, and these presents are upon this condition, that if the said ———, shall by himself or his agent, within the space of two full years next after the date hereof, enter upon the said granted premises, build and finish an house thereon not less than eighteen feet square, and seven feet stud, subdue, clear, and fence six acres of said land, and continue thereon for the space of three successive years, commencing after the two years aforesaid, (unless prevented by death or inevitable Providences,) and do perform all duties and orders, pay all taxes that shall be granted, then the aforesaid deed shall remain in full force and virtue."



fore its settlement by the white inhabitants. Their principal village was on the eastern border of *Indian Pond*,\* where they had made considerable clearings, and where their chief resided. There were numbers of them, too, on the borders of the other pond, and in the valley of the Oblong River. They were never so numerous as to prove dangerous to the safety of the settlers; but as there was a numerous tribe at *Schaghtikoke*, in Kent, and at *Wetaug*, in Salisbury, and many more at *Stockbridge*, in Massachusetts, and, as during the wars with the French, which were frequent at that period, the frontier settlements were sometimes exposed to their incursions, the first inhabitants of Sharon fortified several of their houses by palisades, into which they were sometimes gathered during the night, when danger was apprehended. One such fortified house was fitted up in each neighborhood.— It does not appear, however, that these Indians ever practised or attempted any injury to the whites, or that there was any difficulty between them, except such as arose from conflicting claims to lands, or from the mischievous propensities of the whites, who sometimes committed depredations upon them.† It appears, how-

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\* The Indian name of this pond was Wequagnock; the name of the Oblong River was Webotuck. The Dutch name was *Minkinkill*, or *Mink Brook*.

† These Indians were favored with the labors of the Moravian Missionaries, who visited these parts early in the last century, for the instruction of the heathen. One of these missionaries, of the name of *David Bruce*, died in this town in 1749. He was a Scotsman, and labored many years, preaching the gospel in this region. His bones now repose on the eastern border of the *Indian Pond*, within what was formerly the Indian village, on land now owned by *Andrew Lake*. The stone erected over his grave is yet in a state of tolerable preservation. The following is the epitaph:—

David Bruce,  
From Edinburgh in Scotland,  
Minister of  
The Brethren's Church  
Among the Indians,  
Depart'd 1749.

ever, that the inhabitants, generally, cultivated a spirit of kindness and friendship towards them; and the records of the town furnish evidence that their grievances were redressed with as little delay as possible.\* In this way they were kept quiet, and gradually disappeared from the town. The last of them departed in about fifteen years after the settlement commenced, having sold their lands to *Thomas Barnes*. The names of those who signed the deed were *Nequitimaug* and *Bartholomew*, and they were the last of the tribe who had their head quarters at the Indian Pond.



### CHAPTER III.

Country Grants.—Daniel Jackson.—Home Lots.—First Settlers.

The township was sold, according to the order of the Assembly, on the second Wednesday of October,

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\* At a town meeting, March 25, 1745, "Voted, That Mr. *John Williams* shall be an agent to go to the Assembly in May next to get a taxing on our lands, and to acquaint the Assembly that the Indians are uneasy about their lands."

Voted, That *William Spencer* and *Garrit Winegar* shall be a committee to agree with the Indians about the mare that *Samuel Dunham, Jr.*, unjustly took from them.

December 8, 1745, *William Spencer* and *Thomas Hamlin* chosen fence viewers, both for the English and Indians, and to prize the damage done to the Indians, in their fields, by creatures belonging to this town.

March 6, 1746. Voted, That Messrs. *Timothy Phelps* and *Garrit Winegar*, be a committee to enquire about the damage complained of by the Indians, and if they can find just reason to suspect any particular person to have done said damages, that they, in behalf of said Indians, bring actions against him, the cost of which the town will defray, if no particular person can be convicted of it.—*Extracted from the ancient Town Records.*

1738. It will be observed, that the committee who laid out the township, mention in their report to the Assembly, that there had been laid out, in country grants, about four hundred acres. This was land lying near *Hitchcock's Corner*. One piece was laid out to *Samuel Orvis*, of Farmington, containing 300 acres, and another piece was laid out to *Jonathan Bird*, of the same place. Both pieces were laid out by Mr. Lewis, the surveyor before mentioned, about the time of the original survey of the township. This grant included a tract of land of the very first quality, and extended as far north as to include the farm of the late *Captain Asa Hitchcock*. Orvis and Bird never occupied their lands, but, before the year 1734, sold them to one *Daniel Jackson*, and the patent was taken out in Jackson's name, and the land, for many years after, was called *Jackson's Patent*. *Daniel Jackson* was the first white man that ever lived in Sharon.—His house stood where the house belonging to the Sharon Manufacturing Company now stands. He was originally from Newtown, in Fairfield County, but at the time of his purchase he lived in Dover, New York. His son, *Jehiel Jackson*, who was known to many persons now living, and who once lived where Clark Maxam now lives, was the first white child born in Sharon. Mr. Jackson lived but a few years in the town. In February, 1739, he sold his Patent to *Garrit Winegar*,\* a Dutchman, and himself removed to Great Barrington, Massachusetts. This last named gentleman built a grist-mill at the corner within the

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\* The fertile valley of the *Oblong* had early attracted the attention of the emigrants from Germany, who had settled at what is called the *German Camp*, on the Hudson River. When Sharon was settled, the *Delamater* family was established at Leedsville, and the *Winegar* family at Hitchcock's Corner. *Ulrick Winegar*, a native of Germany, was the patriarch of the *Winegar* family, so numerous in this region, and he was the father of *Garrit Winegar*.

limits of Sharon, and it was at this mill that the corn was ground which fed the first settlers of Sharon.\*

Immediately after the sale of the township, a number of the purchasers came on for the purpose of exploring, and to determine in what part of the town the settlement should be made. After exploring the lands and viewing their situation, it was found that the centre of the township was very unfavorably situated for the *town plot*. It was on a high ridge of land, where the face of the country was forbidding and uncomfortable. After mature deliberation, it was determined to fix the settlement on a street, laid out about sixty rods east of the present town street, and to run through the whole length of the township. This location was afterwards abandoned, because of the lime rock which pervaded it to such a degree as to render it exceedingly difficult to procure a supply of water.

All the individuals who came on to explore in the fall of 1738, returned to their families except one, who was *William Goodrich*. He brought his family with him, and spent the winter, which was a very severe one, with no other neighbors than the Indians, nearer than the Dutch settlements in the Oblong. The next spring, however, brought a large accession to the number of inhabitants, and from that period the settlement of the town may be said to have commenced.

By the sale of the township, each purchaser of a right had become possessed of one fifty-third part of the town, except *Jackson's Patent*, which he held in common with the other purchasers. Provision had been made by law for the division of the land among

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\* Captain Winegar was a respectable and worthy man, and enjoyed the confidence of the citizens of Sharon, having often been appointed to various offices. He died in 1755, and in his last will he made provision for fourteen children, to wit: nine sons, *Isaac, Hendrick, Ulrick, Garrit, John, Samuel, Johannes, Jacob*, and one infant; and five daughters, to wit: *Susannah, Hannah, Catharine, Mary and Elizabeth*.

the owners, from time to time, as they might wish, and the settlers took early measures to effect that object. The first division was into lots of about eighty acres each, which was to furnish the *Home lot* or residence of the proprietor. A Committee was appointed to lay out a lot of eighty acres, which was called the *Standard lot*, and all the other lots were made to conform to this in value, the quantity to be more or less, according to the quality. The highways at the centre of the township were so laid out as to form squares of a half mile each; some of the home lots were laid out wholly on one side of the street, and some on both sides, according to the situation of the land. The Standard lot was the one adjoining *Jackson's Patent*, now owned by John B. Lovel. The settlers principally located on the main street leading from Jackson's Patent, now *Hitchcock's Corner*, to Salisbury. Some, however, settled on the mountain and some in the valley, and in the course of a year or two nearly the whole territory of the first society was occupied. A large proportion of the first inhabitants of Sharon were from *Lebanon* and *Colchester*, in the county of *Windham*; some few were from *Norwalk* and *Stamford*, in Fairfield county, and several families were from the *Old Plymouth Colony*. As they removed into the town they located themselves upon the several Home-lots which they had taken up, and by the next fall, were all comfortably provided with homes and other necessities.



## CHAPTER IV.

Incorporation of the town—First town meeting—Rev. Peter Pratt—Meeting house—Deaths, &c.

DURING the process of locating and settling the township, the inhabitants enjoyed no corporate privileges, nor had the town received any other name than that given it by the committee who laid it out in 1733. After so many inhabitants had removed into the town as came in the spring and summer of 1739, it became important that they should be invested with the usual privileges of towns, and that they should receive a corporate name. A meeting was accordingly holden, and Captain *Jonathan Dunham* was appointed agent to make application to the assembly for a charter, with the usual privileges of towns. The assembly, at its session in October, 1739, upon the memorial of the inhabitants, presented by captain Dunham, incorporated the township by the name of *Sharon*, and authorized captain Dunham to call the first town meeting.\* This was holden, under the direction of

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\* The following is a copy of the act of incorporation :

Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi 13<sup>o</sup>.

Connecticut Colony—

At a General Assembly holden at New Haven, in his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, in New England, in America, on the second Thursday of October, being the 11th day of said month, and continued by several adjournments until the 31st day of the same month, annoque Domini 1739. Upon the memorial of the inhabitants of the southernmost town on the west side of the Ousatonic river, shewing to the assembly the number of settlers now in said town, and the circumstances they are under, and praying for the countenance and favor of this assembly, first, in allowing them to be formed as a town, and to have the privileges of other towns in this colony, also to call and settle some orthodox minister in the work of the ministry among them.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, that the inhabitants of said town, qualified as the law directs, shall have and enjoy all such rights and privileges, and have such powers as are usually granted to

Captain Dunham, at the house of *Nathaniel Skinner*, Esquire, on the 11th day of December, 1739, old style, which is the same as the 22d day of December, new style, being the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. The several town officers were appointed, and the town fully organized for municipal purposes. For the information of the present generation, and to show in what way the business of this meeting was conducted, its proceedings are here copied from the records, preserving accurately the orthography of the original.

“The Inhabitation of Sharon applying Themselves to the Genral assembly in October Last Past for Town Priviledges, Cap Dunham was mad Choice of to Represent the Town to the Assembly, and having obtained the Desiar of the town he being ordered by the Assembly to Warn the Inhabitation in order To Chuse town officers which Being Done the Inhabitation being met on the 11 day of December In ye yeare 1739 at the house of Nathl. Skinner In Sharon And then opened the meeting as the Law Driects

Cap Dunham Was Chosen moderator

Leu Jabez Creppen John Sprague and Cap Jonathan Dunham Was Chosen Select men for the year Insewing

Nath Skinner Was Chosen town Clark

James Smith was Chosen Constable and Sworn as the Law Directs

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other towns in this colony and that said inhabitants shall have liberty to call and settle some orthodox minister of the gospel in the work of the ministry in that place, taking the advice of the ministers of the neighboring churches, and that the town hereafter be called by the name of Sharon. And captain *Jonathan Dunham* of said town, is hereby appointed and empowered to cause the inhabitants of said town to meet in said town on the second Wednesday of December next, to choose town officers in said town for the year ensuing.

George Way was Chosen Granjuery and sworn as the Law Directs

Ebenezer Mudg William Tickner Ebenezer ffrisbie and Cornelus hamlin Was Chosen Surveys of high Ways and Sworn as the Law Directs

Jeremiah foster Samuel Mudg and Thomas Creppen Was Chosen fence vewers and sworn as the Law Directs

Samuel Comstock Was Chosen Colector

Nathl. Skinner Jun Was Chosen Leather Sealer

Nathl. Skinner Jonathan Dunham and John Sprague Was Chosen a Com'tt. to go after a Minister.

Nathl. Skinner and Lew. Jabez Creppen chosen a Com'tt. to Lay out a Beuring Place

It was farther voted that a Note or Warning In'writing set up at The house of John Sprague and Nathl. Skinner and at Garrit winegars mill Six Days before a town meeting Given Reasons of Said Meeting, Shall be a Lawful Warning for a town meeting.

farther voted that Swin haven a Ring in their Noses Shall be accounted an orderly Creater."

We have seen that at the first town meeting measures were taken to procure a minister to preach the gospel to the inhabitants. They evidently contemplated the employment of a minister in the early settlement of the town, and such, too, it seems was the intention of the Assembly in sequestering two rights for the support of the gospel. This aid was afforded in order to assist a community which must necessarily have been weak and feeble in its infancy, in having a supply of the word of life, and the benefit of religious ordinances. Prompted by these encouragements, the first inhabitants of Sharon took early measures to settle a minister. The committee appointed at the first town meeting made application to Mr. *Peter Pratt* of Lebanon, a candidate for the ministry, and a graduate of Yale College, of the class of 1736, and on



the 8th day of January, 1740, the town called him "upon trial for some convenient time," and laid a tax of fifteen shillings on a right for the payment of his services. His labors were acceptable to the people, and on the 14th day of March following, he was invited to settle over the church and congregation in the work of the ministry. The town voted him a salary which would amount to about two hundred dollars per annum.\* Mr. Goodrich and Mr. Sprague were appointed to treat with Mr. Pratt and to present to him the offers of the town. These were accepted by him, and the time fixed for the ordination was the last Wednesday in April. It is supposed that it took place at that time, and that the services were performed in a private dwelling, as no place of public worship had been provided at that time.

The ministry being thus established, the next business in order was to provide a place of public worship; and to this object the attention of the town was soon

\* Town meeting, January 8, 1740.

Voted that Mr. *Peter Pratt*, shall be called by us upon trial for some convenient time.

Voted that *Deacon Nathaniel Skinner*, *Capt. Dunham* and *John Sprague*, shall be a committee to call Mr. *Peter Pratt* for some convenient time of probation for the settling in the work of the ministry, and that said committee is authorized to agree with him for his wages.

March 14, 1740. Voted to call Mr. Peter Pratt to the work of the ministry among us in order to ordination.

March 20, 1740. Voted to Mr. Pratt for his stated salary 210 pounds a year in money which is as silver at 29 shillings per ounce, and for this year 140 pounds, and to rise ten pounds a year until it comes to the 210 pounds, and there to stand during the time of his ministry amongst us.

Voted, that if Mr. Pratt's necessity calls, and the ability of the town will allow it, then to give him more.

March 25, 1740. Voted that the day for the ordination of Rev. Mr. Pratt shall be the last Wednesday of April next.

Voted that *Capt. Dunham*, *Nath. Skinner*, Mr. *Goodrich*, Mr. *Sprague*, Mr. *Way*, are a committee to order the affairs for the ordination of Mr. Pratt.

turned. On the 23d of June, 1740, the town voted to build a meeting house at some convenient time 55 feet by 45, and 22 feet posts. This would have been a large house for those times, and as it was probably found to be more expensive than the circumstances of the town would authorize, it was abandoned for that year. In the mean time the inhabitants met alternately on the Sabbath, for public worship, at the house of Captain Dunham, and at the house of Mr. Pardee, and in the milder season of the year, the meetings were held in Mr. Pardee's barn. For temporary accommodation, and until a better house could be provided, it was voted, in the spring of 1741, to build a meeting house of logs or poles, 36 feet by 20. Where this temporary log meeting house stood, is not now known. It was used but a short time, as while it was building, measures were taking by the town to build a house, which should be of sufficient dimensions to accommodate all the worshippers. It was voted that the new house should be 45 feet by 35, and 20 feet posts, and *Captain Dunham, Ensign Sprague, and Sergeant Pardee* were appointed a committee to superintend its erection. A committee,\* appointed by

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\* This committee consisted of *John Bostwick* of New Milford, and *Samuel Lewis* and *John Mills* of Kent.

June 23, 1740. Voted that we will proceed to build a meeting house at some convenient time.

Voted that the bigness of said meeting house shall be as followeth, that is to say, fifty-five feet in length and forty-five feet wide, and twenty-two feet between joints.

Voted that Mr. Sprague, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Chapman are a committee to call the government's committee to fix a place for the setting of a meeting house on.

July 22, 1740. Voted that John Sprague, Samuel Hutchinson, Ebenezer Jackson, Capt. Dunham and Nath. Skinner, shall be a committee to attend the government's committee when they shall come to fix a place for the meeting house.

March 24, 1741. Voted that there shall be a house builded in this town for to meet in, on Sabbath, at present, of logs or poles, thirty-six feet long, and twenty-four feet wide. Mr. Winegar,

the government were called upon to fix its location, and it was determined that it should be erected in the middle of the street, directly opposite the tavern now kept by Mr. St. John. The building was commenced early in the spring of 1742, and in the course of the season it was so far completed, as that public meetings were held in it in the following October. But it was five or six years before it was finished and glazed. The Hon. *Philip Livingston*\* who had become a large owner of real estate in the town, generously offered to give a bell for the use of the meeting house, provided the town would build a steeple. It was voted that this should be done at the north end of the meeting house, and Messrs. *Dunham*, *Pardee* and *Hutchinson* were appointed a committee to return the thanks of the town to Mr. Livingston for his munificent offer.† For some reason the bell was never procured, nor the steeple erected. The meeting house stood about twenty-five years, when it was found too small for public accommodation.

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Lieu. Hutchinson and Mr. Pardee was chosen a committee to go on with the building, and to have the same fit to meet in by the last of May next.

\* This gentleman was the lord and proprietor of the manor of Livingston, in the counties of Columbia and Rensselaer, N. Y. and one of his Majesty's Privy Counsellors for the Province of New York. He was the father of Governor William Livingston of New Jersey, and grand father of the Rev. John H. Livingston, President of the college at New Brunswick.

† Town meeting, June 6, 1743. Voted that we, the town of Sharon, accept of Mr. Livingston's offer of a bell. Voted to build a belfry or steeple at the north end of our meeting house, for the hanging of a bell. *Capt. Dunham*, Mr. *Pardee* and *Lieut. Hutchinson*, was chosen a committee to return thanks to Mr. Livingston for his offer, and carry on the building of a belfry or steeple to hang a bell in. Voted that *Lieut. Hutchinson* and *Deacon Jackson* shall be added to the meeting committee to go forward with the finishing of our meeting house.

Town meeting, July 28, 1747. Voted, that the vacancy left unclapboarded at the north end of the meeting house, in order to build a steeple for a bell be clapboarded.

The first death recorded is that of *Miriam*, the wife of *William Goodrich, Jun.* which occurred on the 22d of April, 1740.

The following persons also departed this life during the same season, viz. *Asa Rood, David Skinner, Mary*, wife of *Nath. Skinner, Esq.* Deacon *Hezekiah King, Benjamin Fuller, Jonathan Dunham, Jun. Daniel Bouton, Daniel Bouton, Jun.* in all nine persons.

The first person born in the town after Jehiel Jackson, before mentioned, was *Sarah Bates*, daughter to *John* and *Anna Bates*. She was afterwards the wife of *John Randall*, and lived to a very advanced age. The first marriage in the town was that of *El-nathan Goodrich* to *Elizabeth Showers*. It was celebrated on New Year's day, January 1, 1740.

The records of the church in Sharon for the first fifteen years, are lost. It is supposed that *Nathaniel Skinner* and *Hezekiah King* were the first deacons. Deacon King, however, died during the first year, and was probably succeeded by *Jonathan Elmer*. The first pound was erected where Mr. *Jay S. Canfield* now lives. It would seem from the votes on this subject, and also in relation to the location of the meeting house, that there was some strife between the inhabitants, as to where the *centre* should be established. Some were for having it fixed half a mile south of the place finally established, but the decision of the *government's committee* seems to have quieted all difficulty on the subject.

## CHAPTER V.

Deposition of the Rev. Peter Pratt.

WE have seen that Rev. Peter Pratt was ordained in April, 1740, as the first minister of Sharon. The people were well united in him, and he settled under fair prospects of a long and useful ministry. He was married soon after his settlement to *Mrs. Mary Metcalf*, of Lebanon, and had several children. It would seem that the town showed him several acts of kindness, such as furnishing him with his fire-wood, paying the expenses of hiring a horse for a journey to Lebanon, and in various other ways showing him marks of their respect and confidence. But a dark cloud soon obscured the cheering prospects of Mr. Pratt, and his ministry soon terminated in disgrace. It was soon found that he was addicted to intemperate drinking, and the most painful sensations were produced, as this fact, at first only suspected, was verified by indubitable indications. It is probable that his conduct was borne with for some time after it became evident that this habit was growing upon him, in the hope that the admonitions of his friends and his own sense of propriety might reform him. The first intimation of displeasure on the part of the town, which appears on record, is a vote passed on the 9th day of January, 1746, when it was solemnly voted that they would not abide by the agreement with him in relation to furnishing him with fire-wood. His conduct was borne with, however, for about two years longer, when his intemperance became so notorious as to forbid further tolerance. A committee appointed by the town for that purpose, made a complaint to the association of New Haven county, accusing Mr. Pratt of habitual and incurable intemperance, offering to prove the



charges preferred, and requesting an investigation by the Rev. body to whom the complaint was made. Mr. Pratt was cited to appear before the association at a place then called *Westbury*, now *Watertown*, on the 13th day of October, 1747, to answer to the charges preferred against him, and the town were notified to appear and prosecute the complaint. The particulars of the trial are not known, but it resulted in a decree by the association, that the pastoral relation between Mr. Pratt and the people of Sharon should be dissolved, and that he should be prohibited from the further exercise of ministerial functions.\* Thus ended the ministry of the Rev. Peter Pratt. Like others

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\* Town meeting, January 9, 1746. Further it was put to vote whether the town would abide by the original agreement with Mr. Peter Pratt, as to the article of fire-wood, that is to say, whether they will annually procure, cut and draw home for him his fire-wood, voted in the negative.

Town meeting, Sept. 17, 1747. Voted, that we will choose a committee to send to the moderator of the association: at the same meeting, *Matthew St. John, John Gay, Lieut. John Pardee, Deacon Ebenezer Jackson, Jonathan Davis, Deacon Ebenezer Frisbie, Jacob Bacon* are chosen our committee to apply themselves to the moderator of the association for a council to consider our grievances, and said committee to make all proof they can of Mr. Pratt's misconduct from the time he has been settled in the town until the council sits, in order to be laid before the council, and also to lay the same before the council when it comes.

Town meeting, Oct. 8, 1747. Whereas a complaint and charge has, by Messrs. *Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, John Gay* and *John Pardee*, been carried to the Rev. association of the county of New Haven, and thereupon the moderator of the consociation of New Haven county has cited the said *Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, John Gay* and *John Pardee*, to appear at *Westbury*, in the town of *Waterbury*, before said consociation, upon the 13th day of October instant, at 12 o'clock, at the house of Mr. *Samuel Heacock, Jun.* then and there to prosecute said charge and complaint. Voted, that the said *Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, John Gay* and *John Pardee* be our committee to appear according to said citation, and to prosecute said charge and complaint at said *Westbury* and elsewhere, if needful, till the matter be finished.

who have been the subjects of ecclesiastical censure, he seems to have been dissatisfied with the result, and to have made an effort to procure another hearing, in the hope of being restored to his former standing in the ministry. He invited the town to join him in calling the association together for that purpose, and himself offered to bear the expense of the meeting; but the proposition was rejected.\* Mr. Pratt continued to reside in the town for many years after his suspension. He had become the proprietor of a large and valuable real estate in virtue of his being the first minister of the town, an estate which at this time would probably be worth twenty thousand dollars. It contained some of the best land in the town. His home lot contained more than eighty acres, and included all the land on the east side of the town street owned by the heirs of the late Mr. Perry, and on the west side of the street all owned by Mr. *St. John* and most of that owned by Mr. *Berry*, extending half a mile each way from the street. He owned other large and valuable tracts of land, in the whole more than six hundred acres. It appears, however, that he was embarrassed in his circumstances, and that all his real estate was mortgaged at an early day to secure debts in which he had involved himself, and to some of his more importunate creditors he mortgaged his *negro wench*.† In 1750 he sold his home lot to *Sam-*

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\* Town meeting, Dec. 16, 1747. Put to vote whether the town will join Mr. Pratt in calling together the consociation of New Haven county, upon Mr. Pratt's cost and charge, to see whether they will take off the suspension and prohibition laid upon Mr. Pratt by the consociation convened at Westbury in Waterbury, in October last past. This vote passed in the negative.

† The following bill of sale executed by Mr. Pratt is copied from the first volume of Sharon records.

"To all people to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Know ye that I, Peter Pratt of Sharon, in the county of New Haven, in the colony of Connecticut, in New England, for the consideration of two hundred pounds in Bills of Public Credit of

uel Hutchinson, Esq. and it is not now known where he afterwards lived during his stay in town. His wife died on the 10th day of December, 1755. It appears that he was the first clerk of the court of probate for the district of Sharon, which was established in 1755. He held the office but a short time, and he then returned to Lebanon where he died. He was undoubtedly a man of superior talents, and would probably have attained a high standing in the ministry had it not been for his unfortunate propensity. He left one son, who was a shoe-maker and tanner,

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the Old tenor, received to my full satisfaction of Messrs. Isaac De La Matter, and Benjamin Hollister, both of Dutchess county, in the Province of New York, do sell and convey to them, the said Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister, their and each of their heirs and assigns, my *negro wench*, called by the name of *Pegg*, to be to their use and service, and to the use and service of their and each of their heirs and assigns forever, that is, during the life of said negro wench. *However*, it is to be understood and is hereby provided, that whereas the said Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister have, by an obligatory bond under their hands and seals, well executed, dated May the 24th, 1748, with the said Peter Pratt, and at the desire and for the debt of the said Peter Pratt, jointly and severally, bound themselves to Major Martin Hoffman of Dutchess county, aforesaid, in the penal sum of two hundred pounds, current money of the Province of New York, conditioned for the payment of one hundred pounds, money of New York, upon the 21st day of May, which will be A. D. 1750, with the lawful interest of the Province of New York, which is seven pounds per cent. from the date of said bond till paid; if therefore, the said Peter Pratt, or his heirs shall procure good and sufficient security, and deliver to the said Isaac De La Matter and Benjamin Hollister, or their heirs, so as to indemnify and save harmless the said De La Matter and Hollister, their heirs, &c. from the aforesaid obligation, upon or before the said 21st day of May, which will be A. D. 1750, then the above conveyance to be void, otherwise to be a good and ample bill of sale of said negro wench, to all intents and purposes in the law. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 25th of May, A. D. 1748.

PETER PRATT.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of  
 Samuel Hutchinson,  
 Nathaniel Richards."



and who resided in different parts of the town, but there are none of his descendants remaining among us.\*



## CHAPTER VI.

Rev. John Searl—Seating the meeting house—County of Litchfield—Society of Ellsworth—Oblong—Dismission of Mr. Searl.

AFTER Mr. Pratt was dismissed, a considerable time elapsed before the town was again supplied with an ordained minister. Various committees were employed and different candidates were applied to, but much difficulty was experienced in obtaining a suitable man. A Mr. Camp was first employed, and afterwards a Mr. Richards, and on the 25th day of July, 1748, it was voted “that *Jonathan Elmer*,† *Daniel Brinsmade*,‡ *Aaron Hutchinson* and *Elijah Mason* be the candidates to be applied to in the order in which they stand. Neither of the candidates above named could be procured, but in the early part of the year 1749, Mr. *John Searl* of *Simsbury*, was employed as

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\* Since the foregoing was written, Capt. John Wilson, an aged and respectable citizen of the town has informed the author, that in the year 1770, he went to school to Mr. Pratt, at Greenwich, in Fairfield county. He remembers hearing him speak of his ministry in Sharon, and the reason which he gave for his dismissal was, that the people complained of his being engaged in speculations. He was then somewhat advanced in life, and somewhat addicted to intemperate drinking.

† Mr. Elmer was a son of Deacon Jonathan Elmer of Sharon, and was afterwards a distinguished minister at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

‡ Mr. Brinsmade was afterwards minister at Washington, Conn. and was grandfather to General Daniel B. Brinsmade of that place.

a candidate. Mr. Searl was a graduate of Yale College, of the class of 1745, and it seems that his ministrations were acceptable to the people of Sharon. On the 3d day of April, he was formally invited to become the minister of the town, and an offer made of 220 ounces of silver as a salary, and 420 ounces of silver for a settlement. The ecclesiastical constitution of the colony required, that before a minister could be settled, he must be examined and approved of by the association of the county, touching his qualifications for the ministry, and as a meeting of that reverend body was soon to be holden at Old Milford, it was voted that Mr. Searl should be sent there at the expense of the town, and *John Gay* was appointed to accompany him. The first Wednesday in August, 1749, was fixed upon for the ordination, and a large committee was appointed to make provision for the ordaining council, which met at Mr. *Pardee's*. Mr. Searl purchased the 23d home-lot, being the place now occupied by Dr. Robert W. Smith, and lived upon it during his ministry in the town.

The first vote on the subject of seating the meeting house was passed soon after the settlement of Mr. Searl. The ancient method of constructing churches was, to build pews around by the walls, and slips in the centre, and in all cases the gentlemen sat on the right hand of the minister, and the ladies on the left. An innovation was made upon this manner of seating by a vote passed on the 19th day of December, 1749. A committee was appointed who were directed to seat the meeting house by *dignity, age* and *list*, and it was further ordered that men and their wives should be seated together. Similar votes were passed from time to time, as changes in the condition of the society rendered a new seating necessary. In one instance the committee were directed to seat the meeting house according to *age, list* and *quality*.

Up to the year 1751, the towns on the west side of the Ousatonic river had belonged to the county of New Haven. About this time measures were taken to form a new county in this part of the colony, and much contention was had in respect to its extent, and in respect to the location of the county seat. The people of this town were in favor of a small county, with a view to bring the court house nearer to them than they could expect if a large county were formed. Many town meetings were had on the subject\* and much zeal was manifested. All contention ceased, however, upon the formation of the county of Litchfield, with its present limits.

After it was determined, in 1739, to establish the *town plot*, at a place so far distant from the centre of the township, it was foreseen that those living in the south-east part of the town would be taking early measures to enjoy the benefit of religious institutions among themselves. At one of the earliest meetings of the proprietors, a vote was passed, directing their committee to lay out highways and lots in that part of

\* Town meeting, Sept. 2, 1751. Voted that we do desire a new county in this part of the government.

Voted that we will apply to the honorable assembly in May next for that end.

Voted that we do desire, with submission to the pleasure of the assembly, that the limits or bounds may be, on the south, the south bound of the government's land on the west side of Ousatonic river, the north bounds of New Milford and the south bounds of Litchfield. The east line, the east bounds of Litchfield and of Torrington, and from thence northward to the Massachusetts line; the north line the line between us and the Massachusetts; the west line, the line between this government and the government of New York, and that *Cornwall* may be the county town.

Voted that John Williams, Esq. be our agent to go to the Honorable General Assembly upon said business in October next.

Town meeting, Dec. 17, 1751. Put to vote whether we will send an agent or agents to Kent, to meet some gentlemen from Woodbury, to consult upon the affairs of the county. Voted in the negative.

the town with a view to the establishment of a distinct religious society. The town voted, as early as 1753, to set off a new society, with nearly the same limits as the present society of Ellsworth occupies.\*

The reason why the division of the ecclesiastical corporation was so long postponed was, that the parties could never agree as to the limits of the new society. Those who petitioned that a new society should be formed, required that the dividing line should run north and south, through the whole length of the township. The majority of the town, on the other hand, would never consent to this arrangement, and thus the controversy was continued for near half a century. In 1767, a committee of the General Assem-

\* Town meeting, April 8, 1753. Upon the motion made by the people in the easterly part of the town for a new society, *voted* that we are willing a society should be set off by a line agreed upon by a committee that shall be chosen to make such a line. Messrs. *Samuel Hutchinson, David Hamilton and John Marvin*e, chosen to be a committee for the purpose aforesaid. *voted* that this meeting be adjourned for the space of one hour, and then the meeting opened again according to adjournment, and the aforesaid committee made report to the meeting of a line, by them agreed upon, for a new society, and it is as follows, viz. beginning at the south-east corner of the lot on which *Woolstone Brockway* lives, being in the south line of the township, from thence the line runs northerly straight to the north-east corner of *Deacon Ebenezer Frisbie's* land, where he now lives, thence running according as the highway runs that comes out easterly of and near to *Jehiel Pardee's* house, where he now dwells, and then a straight line northerly to the middle of the north line of *Caleb Strong's* lot on which he now dwells, and then easterly, as the highway runs to *Deacon Ebenezer Jackson's*, then northerly and then turning easterly as the highway runs by *John Gray's* till it comes to where the road crosses the *Great Hollow Brook*, and from thence a due east line till it comes to *Ousatonick river*.

*Voted* that the above said report of the committee is accepted.

May 3, 1753. It was put to vote whether we will grant the request of those who move for a new line, for a new society different from what was before granted, and it was *universally negatived*.



bly\* was sent out to examine the situation of the town with reference to a new society, and *John Williams, Simeon Smith, John Canfield, Ebenezer Gay* and *Samuel Elmer*, were appointed a committee to wait upon them, but nothing was done. The people on the mountain were allowed some privileges from time to time, to enable them to hire preaching in the winter season. A part of their ministerial taxes were abated, and for a number of years an annual vote of the town was passed, authorizing the minister to preach one Sabbath in each of the three winter months, in that part of the town. By this assistance from the town, and by individual subscription they were generally supplied with preaching four months in the year. The meetings in early times were holden at the house now occupied by *Daniel Parsons, Esq.*

Another religious society was formed at an early day at the south part of the town, embracing inhabitants of both colonies. The meeting house stood on the colony line, and was known for many years by the name of the *round top meeting house*. The Reverend *Ebenezer Knibloe* was its minister for more than twenty-five years. This gentleman was from Scotland. During the rebellion in that country, in the year 1745, he favored the interests of the *Pretender*, and upon the defeat of the forces of that unfortunate prince, Mr. Knibloe removed to this country. He first settled on the west part of *Phillip's Patent*, in Putnam county, New York, but after a stay there of about two years he removed to this town and gathered the church and society at the *Corner*. He lived at the place now occupied by his grandson, *Philo Knibloe*. He was a sound, sensible man, a good preacher, and apparently a sincere Christian. At the

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\* This committee consisted of *William Pitkin, Shubael Conant*, and *Erastus Wolcott*.

commencement of the revolutionary war, he rather favored the pretensions of the British king, for which reason his congregation became disaffected, and he relinquished ministerial performances. He died of consumption on the 20th day of December, 1785, at the age of fifty-six.

The Rev. Mr. Searl possessed in a good degree, the confidence and affection of his people. He had been settled over them but a short time, however, before his health began to fail, and early in the second year of his ministry he was absent a part of the time on that account. The town employed other preachers to supply the pulpit during the interruption of his labors, in the hope that his health might be restored and his ministry continued. His health, however, continued to decline to such a degree, that he deemed it his duty to withdraw from pastoral performances, and on the 4th Tuesday of June, 1754, he was dismissed with the reluctant consent of the town.\* Thus

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\* Town meeting, Sept. 6, 1753. Deacon *Ebenezer Jackson* and Deacon *Ebenezer Frisbie* chosen a committee to endeavor to obtain preaching among us for the space of two months from this time. Mr. Searl having agreed to relinquish his salary for that purpose. Voted, that said committee advise with the Rev. Mr. Searl to whom to apply.

Town meeting, April 8, 1754. Put to vote whether, considering Mr. Searl's infirm state of health, we are willing that he should be absent from us for the space of half a year from this time, the whole or such part of the time as he shall think best, in order to use means to recover his health, and to pay him his salary for the same time, upon his endeavoring to procure for us as much assistance from the neighboring ministers as they shall be willing to afford. Passed in the negative.

Voted, that Capt. *Matthew St. John*, Messrs. *Nathaniel Skinner*, *Jonathan Hunter*, *Thomas Barnes* and *David Hamilton* be a committee to go and discourse with Mr. Searl and see if he will make some abatement of some part of his salary, for that time when he shall be absent, and to make report to this meeting at such time as it may be adjourned to.

Town meeting, April 18, 1754. Upon a motion made by the Rev. Mr. Searl to the town, in town meeting, that, considering

in the short space of fifteen years the ministry in the town was twice made vacant. Mr. Searl soon after left the town, believing that his usefulness as a minister of the gospel was at an end, and under the apprehension that his days on earth would be few. He returned to Simsbury, and contrary to the anticipations which were entertained at the time of his dismissal from Sharon, he recovered his health, and on the 17th day of January, 1758, he was installed minister of *Stoneham, Mass.* in the vicinity of Boston.

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his low and infirm state of health, he has had thoughts of applying to the consociation in May next for advice, whether it be not best for him to be dismissed from his pastoral relation to this church and people, and also to apply to said consociation for a dismissal upon condition they judge it best. *Voted*, that if Mr. Searl does make up his mind as abovesaid, that *Lieut. John Pardee*, be a committee to accompany him, and to represent and act for this town, at said consociation, and to hear their determination.

Town meeting, June 7, 1754. Whereas, the Reverend Moderator of the Consociation of this county has sent us a notification to appear before said consociation at their meeting at our meeting house, on the fourth Tuesday of June instant, to offer reasons, if any we have, why the Rev. Mr. Searl, considering his want of bodily health, &c. should not be dismissed from his pastoral relation to this town, according to his desire.

*Voted*, that Messrs. *John Williams, John Pardee, John Gay, John Marvinne*, and *Jonathan Hunter*, be a committee to represent this town before said consociation at their said meeting, and to inform them that we have a dear regard to the Rev. Mr. Searl, and the thoughts of his being dismissed from us lie with great weight on our minds, yet considering his great weakness and long continued bodily indisposition, we know not what to say otherwise than to entreat the venerable consociation to take the matter under their consideration and to determine what they think is duty in present circumstances, that is, what they judge is like to be most for the glory of God, and the greatest interest both of the Rev. Mr. Searl and of this people.

Town meeting, June 25, 1754. *Voted* that Messrs. *John Williams, Ebenezer Jackson* and *Ebenezer Frisbie* be a committee to apply to the Reverend Elders present, for advice whom to apply to, to preach with us, either for present occasional preaching, or to settle with us, and also to act upon said advice.

He remained in the ministry there, until the 24th day of April, 1776, when he was dismissed.\* The reasons for his second dismissal were assigned in the following words: "The difficulty of the times, whereby there was not a probable prospect of support for his family, but more especially on account of his *ill health* occasioned by easterly winds." He afterwards removed to *Stoughton, Mass.* where he died in the early part of the present century. He had one son of the name of *Samuel*, who graduated at Yale College, in 1781, and who was a young man of extraordinary talents and high promise, but who died at an early age. Mr. Searl, himself, was a man of respectable abilities and of an elevated standing in the ministry. He was a member of an important ecclesiastical council which assembled at New Haven, in October, 1751, to settle some disputes which had arisen in one of the churches in that town, and which consisted of some of the most eminent clergymen in the colony, to wit, *John Graham, Jedediah Mills, Philemon Robbins, Daniel Humphreys, Ebenezer White, Eleazer Wheelock, Benjamin Pomeroy, Benajah Case, Joseph Belamy, Samuel Hopkins, James Sproat, Jonathan Lee,* and *John Searl*.

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\* A correspondent near Stoneham writes as follows—"From widow *Rebecca Hays*, aged 85, a native of Stoughton, and the oldest person in town, I learn that Mr. Searl married *Hepsibah Duncan*, of Stoughton, Mass; that he had two sons, *Samuel* and *John*, and two daughters, *Betsey* and *Fanny*. Mrs. Hays says that he was a learned man, very orthodox, wrote very good sermons, and was grand for telling stories. His delivery was very dull. She thinks he was not very active in regard to pastoral labors, and is of opinion that some of his discourses were printed, but is not certain. She says that it was the opinion at the time, that he left Stoneham for fear of the British. He was not settled in Stoughton, but used to go out on preaching and missionary tours for a few weeks or months at a time." It is stated by Dr. Dwight, in his travels, that Mr. *Searl* and the late *Judge Noble* of Williamstown, Mass. were the first persons that ever ascended



## CHAPTER VIII.

Rev. Cotton Mather Smith.—Church of England.—Rev. Thomas Davies.—  
Erection of a new Meeting House.—Whitfield.

IN the course of the summer of 1754, the Reverend *Cotton Mather Smith*, of Suffield, was employed by the town to preach as a candidate for settlement.—He came upon the recommendation of *Matthew St. John*, who had been an inhabitant of Sharon, but who had now removed to Suffield, where he became acquainted with Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith was a descendant of the Rev. *Henry Smith*, the first minister of Wethersfield, who came from England in 1638.\*—The mother of Mr. Smith was a daughter of the celebrated *Cotton Mather*, and she died in this town at a very advanced age. Mr. Smith was born at Suffield on the 16th day of October, 1731, and graduated at Yale College in 1751. He spent the year previous to his visiting Sharon, at *Stockbridge*, Massachusetts, with the very celebrated *Jonathan Edwards*, engaged in the benevolent duties of instructing the Indians.—Mr. Smith preached as a candidate for more than a year, and in the mean time boarded with *John Gray*, Esq., at the north part of the town. He was ordained minister of Sharon on the 28th day of August, 1755.\*

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*Saddle Mountain*, the highest mountain in Massachusetts. The late Rev. *David L. Perry*, informed the author that he saw Mr. Searl at Williamstown when at the age of more than 70 years, he performed this laborious undertaking.

\* In a record of *Daniel Cushing*, the third town clerk of *Hingham*, Massachusetts, is this entry:—"Mr. Henry Smith and his wife and three sons, and two daughters, and three men servants and two maid servants, and *Thomas Mayer*, came from H\*\*er Hall, in Norfolk, and settled in *New Hingham* 1638." *Henry Smith* had a son, *Ichabod*, who was the father of *Samuel Smith*, and this last named gentleman was the father of the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith.

\* Town Meeting, Dec. 13, 1754. Voted, That Deacon *Ebene-*

He purchased the place which was owned by his predecessor, Mr. Searl, the same which is now occupied by his great-grand-son, Dr. Robert W. Smith. He was

*zer Jackson, Deacon Ebenezer Frisbie, and John Williams, be a committee to see if they can agree with Mr. Smith to preach with us some time longer, and in the mean time to advise with the committee of the Association respecting giving him a call to settle in the ministry with us, and to make report to this meeting at such time to which it may be adjourned.*

Town Meeting, January 8, 1755. *Voted, That we will give Mr. Cotton Mather Smith, a call to settle in the work of the gospel ministry with us.*

*Voted, That the former committee, viz. the two Deacons and John Williams, Esq., be continued to be our committee, and that they inform Mr. Smith that the town have voted to give him a call.*

*Voted, That said committee confer with Mr. Smith, and know which will be most acceptable to him, to have a larger settlement and a smaller salary, or a larger salary and smaller settlement, and make report to this meeting.*

*Voted, That we desire, and will make application to the General Assembly in May next, for a Probate District in this north-west part of this county.*

Town Meeting, January 15, 1755. *Voted, That we will make such proposals to Mr. Cotton Mather Smith, to encourage him to settle with us in the work of the gospel ministry, as shall be equivalent to the terms on which Mr. Searl settled with us, in such form as we shall afterwards conclude upon.*

*Voted, That we will give to said Mr. Smith 420 ounces of silver, or equivalent in old tenor Bills, for a settlement, to be paid in three years after settlement; viz. 140 ounces, or an equivalent in old tenor bills, annually, for said three years.*

*Voted, That we will give to said Mr. Smith 220 Spanish dollars, or an equivalent in old tenor bills, for his yearly salary.*

*Voted, That the committee last chose to treat with Mr. Smith, be continued to be a committee to make the aforesaid proposals to him in the name of the town, and to desire his answer.*

Town Meeting, May 23, 1755. *Voted, That we persevere in our desire to have Mr. Cotton Mather Smith settle with us in the work of the gospel ministry, and would have this our desire manifested again to him, and also that he be informed that we take a grateful notice of what he has now offered to this meeting, and also that the Reverend Association of this county be informed of this our desire, and therefore chose John Williams, Esq., as our agent or representative to go to said Reverend Association, at*

married, soon after his settlement, to Mrs. Temperance Gale, widow of Dr. Moses Gale, of Goshen, N. York, and daughter of *Rev. William Worthington*, of the parish of *Westbrook*, in *Saybrook*. Mr. Smith was the minister of Sharon for more than fifty years, and during the whole of that period occupied a large space in public affairs. Probably no minister ever had, in a greater degree, the confidence and affection of his people. He is never spoken of at this day, by

their meeting in New Milford, on 'Tuesday next, to inform them of it, and to ask their farther advice in this matter.

That part of Mr. Cotton Mather Smith's answer to the town's call given in town meeting, and signed with his hand, May 23d, 1755, respecting our proposals for his settlement and salary, was in the words following; viz. "As to the settlement and salary you have voted me, I have nothing to object against 'em but esteem the offer generous and honorable, and as it will come heavy upon some, perhaps, to pay salary and settlement together, so I have thought of releasing part of the payment of the salary for a time, to be paid to me again when you have finished the payment of the settlement, and this I propose to have done in the following manner: the first year I shall allow you out of the salary you have voted me, 40 dollars, the 2d, 30 dollars, the 3d year 15, the 4th year 20, to be repaid to me again, the 5th year 20 more, the 6th year 20 more, and the 25 dollars that remain, I am willing that the town should keep 'em for their own use.—*From the original. Entered per John Williams, Register.*

Town Meeting, June 12, 1755. *Voted*, That we comply with the advice of the Reverend Association, respecting the day of the ordination of Mr. Cotton Mather Smith to be the Pastor of this church and people, and accordingly appoint the 28th day of August next for that purpose.

*Voted*, That Messrs. John Gay, John Pardee, and John Marvin, be a committee to make needful provision for the ordaining council, and such other gentlemen as it shall be thought best to have entertained at the cost of the town.

*Voted*, That the same committee take care to prop and well brace up the galleries before said day of ordination.

Town Meeting, August 20, 1755. *Voted*, That Lient. Caleb Jewitt, Lient. Stephen Calkin, and Jonathan Gillett be a committee to procure materials for, and to erect a scaffold at the north end of the meeting house, for the ordaining council to ordain Mr. Smith upon, or, if it should be wet weather, to prop and well secure the galleries.

those who knew him, but with the most unqualified respect and veneration.

A census of the colony was taken in 1756, and the population of Sharon was found to be 1196, about one half of the present number of inhabitants.

From the first settlement of the town, there had been several families of the *Communion of the Church of England*, as it was called, before the Revolutionary war, but they were never sufficiently numerous to form a separate congregation, or to maintain public worship, until about the year 1755. On the 14th day of April, of that year, leave was given, by the town, to those of that communion, "to erect a church at the corner of the highways that come from the upper end of the town and the *Iron Works Hollow*." This was at the head of the street, near Capt. King's.—This building was erected, and stood for nearly forty years. It is mentioned as a singular circumstance in regard to its construction, that its external covering was a coat of mortar. Public worship was maintained in it for a number of years; the desk being supplied by missionaries sent out by the "*Honorable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts*." The first of these missionaries who labored here, was the Rev. *Ebenezer Dibble*, whose permanent residence was at *Stamford*, but who had the care of many of the churches in the western part of the colony. After Mr. Dibble, the Rev. *Thomas Davies* had the charge of the church, in connexion with those at New Milford, Roxbury, New Preston, and New Fairfield.\*—

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\* Mr. Davies was born in *Herefordshire, England*, on the 21st of Dec. 1736. His father removed to this country in 1745, and settled in what is now called *Davies' Hollow*, in the town of Washington, then a part of Litchfield. He graduated at Yale College in September, 1758, and in 1761 sailed for England for holy orders. He was ordained Deacon by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 23d of August, and on the following day was ordained Priest, by the same Prelate. The following is a copy of the re-



The leading churchmen in the town were Messrs. *Joel Harvey, Job Gould, Elnathan Goodrich, John Penoyer, Simeon Rowley, Samuel Hitchcock, Solomon Goodrich*, and perhaps some others. At one time during his ministry, Mr. Davies reported the number of families belonging to the parish to be *twenty-two*, and the number of communicants to be nineteen.— During the Revolutionary war, the church building was deserted, turned into a barrack, and never afterwards occupied as a place of worship. Mr. *Richard Clark* succeeded Mr. Davies in the mission, and resided in *New Milford* until the close of the war. It would seem that there was perfect harmony and good feeling between the two denominations. At the annual town meetings, for a great number of years, *Charles Gillet* was appointed key keeper to the meet-

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cord of his appointment as a missionary, as taken from the Records of the Society.—“ Agreed, the 18th of Sept., 1761, that Mr. Davies be appointed missionary to the churches of *New Milford, Roxbury, Sharon, New Preston*, and *New Fairfield*, in Litchfield Co., Conn.” Mr. Davies embarked immediately after this, for this country, and entered on his ministry to the above named churches. On the first day of April, 1762, he was married to Miss *Mary Harvey*, daughter of Mr. *Joel Harvey*, of Sharon, by whom he had two children, one of whom, *William Davies Esq.*, is still living, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. The other, was the wife of Jonathan Burrall, Esq., late of Canaan, Conn. Mr. Davies died suddenly at New Milford, on the 12th day of May, 1766, in the 30th year of his age. The following is a copy of his epitaph:—

In memory of the Rev. Thomas Davies,  
 A faithful servant of Jesus Christ,  
 An active, worthy Missionary,  
 From the venerable society in England.  
 who departed this life, May 12, 1766,  
 in the 30th year of his age.  
 He met death with the greatest Christian fortitude,  
 being supported by the rational hope  
 of a blessed immortality.  
 The sweet remembrance of the just  
 Does flourish, now he sleeps in dust.  
*Vita bene acta, jucundissima est recordatio.*



ing house, and *John Pennoyer* key keeper to the church, and this practice was continued as long as the church was used for public worship.

After the town had been settled between twenty and thirty years, the population had increased to such an extent, that it became necessary to provide a more commodious place of public worship than the meeting house then in use afforded. As early as the year 1763, the subject was agitated in the town. It was the practice through the colony, at that time, to raise money for all public purposes, and especially for building meeting houses, by taxation. But it was found to be impossible to procure a vote of the town to lay such a tax in this instance, on account of the difficulty with the people in the east part of the town, touching the establishment of a new society. After several efforts to lay a tax had failed, it was determined to make the attempt to raise the money by subscription, and such was the success of the undertaking, that it was thought advisable to proceed with the building in the spring of 1767. It was framed, raised and covered, during that season, but it was not finished and fitted for public use until the next year. The master workman of the building was *Capt. Stephen Sears*, a builder of some celebrity, and who was active in bringing forward the project of building a new house of worship. It was a number of years before all the expenses of the building were paid. When it was completed, it was one of the largest and most commodious churches in the county, and for a great many years the congregation which worshipped in it filled it to overflowing. It stood on the ledge of rocks which is now so conspicuous nearly in front of the present Congregational church, and was used for a house of worship for nearly sixty years.\* In the year

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\* Town Meeting, Dec. 30, 1763. *Voted*, That in order to consider of a motion for building a new meeting house, and for some

1824 it was taken down, and the present brick church was erected in its place.

In the latter part of July, 1770, the Rev. *George*

other business, not finished, this meeting be adjourned to the third Tuesday in January next.

Town Meeting, Sept. 16, 1766. *Voted*, That we will build a meeting house near the present meeting house, the precise spot to be afterwards determined, only that it be not thirty rods from the present house; said house not to be under the following dimensions, viz. 60 feet in length, 40 in width, and 25 feet post, the whole affair to be under the direction of a committee hereafter to be chosen; said committee not to begin to build, till in their judgment they have got enough subscribed to finish it.

*Voted*, That if any person, or persons, shall subscribe who may, within the space of twenty years next coming, be made a distinct ecclesiastical society, or be added to any other ecclesiastical society, he or they shall be refunded their proper proportion of what they shall so subscribe, by those who shall remain in the possession of said meeting house, which proportion shall be after a deduction of a fiftieth part for every year before they are set off, then the remainder to be paid back as aforesaid.

*Voted*, That Doct. *Simeon Smith*, Messrs. *Ebenezer Gay*, and *Stephen Sears*, be a committee for the purposes aforesaid.

Town Meeting, Dec. 9, 1767. *Voted*, That the old meeting house is granted to the committee who are appointed to erect and finish the new meeting house, to be improved or disposed of towards finishing the new meeting house, so as not to deprive us of meeting in it until the new one is fit to meet in.

December 19. 1768. It being represented to this meeting that stoves are frequently left in this meeting house with fire in them, whereby it is much exposed to be burnt; the town taking this matter into consideration, agree and vote, that no stove shall be left in this meeting house, with or without fire in it, and suffered to remain there after the meeting shall be dismissed at night, or through the night, on the penalty of ten shillings for a stove so left, to be recovered of the person or persons that shall leave the same, according to law.

*Voted*, That young people should not sit together, males and females, in the same pews or seats in the galleries, and that our informing officers shall be allowed to sit where they choose in the galleries, for their observation of their behavior who sit there.

*Voted*, That we will now proceed to choose a committee to seat our meeting house, when the seats shall be made in the body of the house. Doct. *Simeon Smith*, *Stephen Sears*, *Ebenezer Gay*, *Joseph Landers, Jr.*, *John St. John*, *Charles Gillet*, and *Samuel Elmer*, were chosen a committee for the purpose aforesaid.

*Whitfield*, a celebrated itinerant minister of the Church of England, passed through the town on a preaching tour. He had proceeded up the North River as far as *Albany* and *Schenectady*, preaching in all the towns and villages on the route, and returning, preached at *Great Barrington, Norfolk, Salisbury\** and *Sharon*. There was considerable opposition to his being permitted to preach in the meeting house, but the influence of Parson Smith prevailed, and the doors were opened. An arrangement had been made for him to preach in the orchard of *Mr. Jonathan Gillet*, directly opposite the meeting house, and now owned by *George Skinner*, in case he should be refused admission to the usual place of worship. An immense congregation, from this and the neighboring towns, assembled on the occasion, and that all the hearers might be well accommodated with seats, extensive scaffolds were erected around the house. His text, was the words of our Saviour addressed to Nicodemus,—“*Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.*” He discoursed upon the doctrine of the new birth with the most astonishing power and eloquence. The concluding words of the sermon were a quotation, with a little variation, from the last verse of the fourth chapter of *Solomon’s Songs*; “Awake O north wind, and come thou south, blow upon *this* garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my Beloved come into *this* garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.”—

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\* The meeting house in Salisbury, at that time, was small, and to accommodate the immense number of hearers which came together on the occasion, Mr. Whitfield preached in the open air.—The meeting was holden in an orchard, now owned by *William C. Sterling, Esq.*, on the side of the hill a little north of the present residence of that gentleman. The late *Dr. Hamilton* informed Governor Smith, that on his way to this meeting, while descending the hill south of *Furnace Village*, and full half a mile from where Mr. Whitfield then stood, he heard him distinctly, announce his text in these words, “*Turn ye to the strong holds, ye prisoners of hope.*”

Many from this town went, the next day, to hear him preach at the *red meeting house* in Amenia, N. York, and some followed him for two or three days in succession, to hear the word of life from this devoted minister of the cross.\*

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\* These were among the last labors of Whitfield. While on this tour he suffered much from the *asthma*, the disease which very soon after terminated his life. He spent the night previous to his preaching here, with Parson Smith, and such was the alarming severity of the disorder then upon him, that it was thought very doubtful, by those who watched with him, whether he could survive the night. He attributed his restoration to such a comfortable state of health as that he was able to preach the next day, to the kind nursing of *Madam Smith*, for which he expressed the most deep-felt gratitude. It was, probably, in allusion to his own precarious situation, that he opened the public exercises on the following day by reading the following version on the third psalm, by Dr. Watts. Its appropriate bearing upon his own feeble condition, will be readily seen.

1. O Lord, how many are my foes,  
In this weak state of flesh and blood;  
My peace they daily discompose,  
But my defence and hope is God.
2. Tired with the burdens of the day,  
To thee I rais'd an evening cry;  
Thou heard'st when I began to pray,  
And thine almighty help was nigh.
3. Supported by thine heavenly aid,  
I laid me down, and slept secure;  
Not death should make my heart afraid,  
Though I should wake and rise no more.
4. But God sustained me all the night;  
Salvation doth to God belong:  
He raised my head to see the light,  
And makes his praise my morning song.

Mr. Whitfield died in about two months from this time, at Newburyport, Mass.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## Events of the Revolutionary War.

WE have now arrived at the period of the commencement of the Revolutionary War. The citizens of Sharon, almost without exception, partook largely of the feeling which pervaded the whole country, at the commencement of the struggle. Parson Smith, like the other clergymen of the day, was a most ardent and decided whig; and his personal influence contributed, not a little, to lead the public mind in the right channel. In his public ministrations, too, there was mingled much of the stirring patriotism of the times. In the prayers which were offered, and in the praises which were sung, there were interspersed many allusions to the tyrannical edicts of the British King, and to the degraded and suffering condition of the colonies. Hymns were written, and music was composed, which were used for public worship on the Sabbath, the effect of which would seem to be, to stir up *martial*, rather than devotional feelings, and to excite in the worshippers, the deepest hatred of their oppressors. The following stanza was the commencement of one of the hymns which was frequently sung for Sabbath worship:—

“ Let tyrants shake their iron rod,  
And slavery clank her galling chains,  
We fear them not, we trust in God,  
New England’s God forever reigns.”

The intelligence of the battle of *Lexington* was brought to Sharon on the Sabbath, and Mr. Smith, at the close of the morning exercises, announced it from the pulpit, and made some remarks tending to arouse the spirit of the congregation to firmness and to resistance. Immediately after the congregation was



dismissed, the militia and volunteers, to the number of one hundred men, paraded on the west side of the street, south of the meeting house, and prepared to march immediately to the scene of action. *David Downs, Esq.*, was Captain, *James Brewster* Lieutenant, and *David Gould*, Ensign. After further deliberation, however, it was determined to send Lieutenant Brewster to Litchfield, to enquire more fully into the accuracy of the intelligence, and whether the services of the militia would be required immediately.—Lieut. Brewster\* performed this mission, and learning that the British had returned to Boston, and that no pressing necessity existed for further military aid, it was determined not to march, until further hostile movements on the part of the enemy should render it necessary.

The General Assembly was forthwith convened, and a large military force raised. One' company was raised in Sharon and its vicinity. *Samuel Elmore* received a Major's commission, and also had the command of this company. *Amos Chappell* was the lieutenant.

The only survivors of this company are *Thomas Heath* and *Adonijah Maxam*. Deacon *Isaac Chamberlain*, Capt. *Sylvanus Gibbs*, and Mr. *Ebe Everitt*, lately deceased, were also members of this company, as were *William Gray*, *Samuel Lewis, Jr.*, and *David Goff*. This company was attached to a regiment which marched to the northward in 1775, for the conquest of Canada, under General Montgomery. Before St. Johns was taken, it was determined, by Colonels Allen and Brown, to make an attempt upon the city

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\* This young gentleman was at this time a clerk in Colonel Gay's store. He was originally from Windham, and came to Sharon in A. D. 1770, with his mother, who was the second wife of Captain Caleb Jewitt. He died, much lamented, of a consumption, on the 22d day of February, 1777.

of Montreal with a few volunteers, if they could be obtained. The troops were paraded, and Allen marched in front of the Connecticut line, and invited volunteers to join him. Of the soldiers who belonged to Sharon, *Adonijah Maxam*, *David Goff*, *William Gray* and *Samuel Lewis*, stepped forward, and offered to share in the perils of the expedition. It was arranged between Allen and Brown, that the latter should land on the island, below the city, while Allen, with about eighty men, should land above the city, and there wait until they should hear the firing from Brown's party, when they were to rush on to the attack. Allen crossed the river St. Lawrence with his detachment on the evening of the 24th of September, on a raft, and waited in the expectation of hearing the firing from Brown's party through the whole night, but he waited in vain. For some reason the expedition on Brown's part had failed, and the morning light found Allen altogether in the power of the enemy. This rash adventurer, however, determined to defend himself to the last extremity against the seven or eight hundred men that were brought against him, and he fought until twenty-five of his men were killed, and seven wounded, when he and his brave associates, including *Maxam*, *Goff*, *Gray* and *Lewis*, from Sharon, and one *Roger Moore*, of Salisbury, were compelled to surrender. They were loaded with irons, and sent to England, for the avowed object of receiving the sentence and punishment of traitors. The threat of retaliatory measures, however, on the part of the Americans, prevented such summary proceedings against them, and after being kept in close confinement, in England and Ireland, during the winter, the prisoners just named were brought back to New York in the spring of 1776. They were confined, during the summer, in an old church, with a large number of others, who had been taken during the campaign, at Fort Washington, and other places. From this place

they contrived to make their escape, by digging beneath the under-pinning of the building. They had been habited in sailor's clothes during their captivity, and on this account they were less liable to be detected. They divided into two parties, Maxam and Moore forming the one, and Gray, Goff and Lewis, the other. The three latter very soon found means to land on Long Island, and from thence passed over the Sound to the Continent, and returned to their friends in Sharon. Maxam and Moore had more difficulty. They were two or three days in the city before they found it possible to leave it, and after landing on Long Island they suffered much from hunger. After travelling several days, they found means to embark on the Sound, and to reach Saybrook. Their return to Sharon astonished their friends, who having learned from Gray and his comrades the circumstances of their escape from confinement, and having heard nothing further from them, had concluded that they had been retaken by the British. The only survivor of this band of sufferers, is Mr. Adonijah Maxam, who now at the age of eighty-eight years, enjoys a good degree of bodily and mental activity.

In the campaign of 1775, Parson Smith went with the army to the northward, as Chaplain to Col. Hinman's regiment, and spent several months in the service.

There was one soldier from Sharon, who joined the expedition led by General Arnold through the wilderness of Kennebec, to Canada, whose name was *Alexander Spencer*. He died, however, on the march, from sickness.

The exigencies of the times calling for a large army at the commencement of 1776, a large number of men, more than one hundred, enlisted from the town of Sharon. One company marched for Canada. It was commanded by Captain *David Downs*, already mentioned. The first lieutenant was *Adonijah Griswold*,

and the second lieutenant was *David Doty*. The only survivors of this company, which was a large one, are *Joel Chaffee* and *Adonijah Pangman*, of Cornwall. *Charles Gillet*, another member of the company, was killed near *The Cedars*, so called, by a party of Indians in ambush, as he was riding along the road, having gone out on some business connected with his duty as commissary. The other soldiers raised in Sharon for the campaign of 1776, were distributed among three other companies, and all marched for New York, against which an attack by the British was now apprehended. Of one company, Dr. *Simeon Smith* was captain; of another, *Elijah Foster* was captain; and of the third, *Nathaniel Hamlin* was lieutenant. These companies were in the campaign of 1776, under General Washington on Long Island and in the vicinity of New York, and shared in the fatigues and perils of that disastrous period. *David Wood*, *Nathaniel Buel*, *Josiah Coleman*, *Jabez Jennings*, *Asahel Somers*, *John Randall, Jr.*, and *Thomas Ackley* were taken prisoners at Fort Washington, of whom *Wood* and *Ackley* died during their captivity, and *Buel* and *Coleman* on their return. The British having obtained possession of New York, General Washington determined to make an effort to dislodge them during the winter which followed the unfortunate campaign of 1776. For this purpose a large military force was raised in the fall of that year for two months service, and one company was enlisted in Sharon. *William Boland* was captain, *Hezekiah Frisbie*, lieutenant, and *Azariah Griswold*, ensign.—As the period of enlistment was so short, there was no difficulty in filling the company. The only survivors of this company are Messrs. *Adonijah Maxam* and *Thomas Heath*. New York was not attacked, and the company was discharged at Kingsbridge, at the expiration of their term of service.

The forces which had hitherto been called into the



service, were raised on the authority of the State.— To provide for the campaign of 1777, Congress undertook to raise an army, which was called the *Continental army*; and of this army, two regiments, *Swift's* and *Bradley's*, were raised in the western part of Connecticut. Of one company, *David Strong* was appointed lieutenant, and he enlisted a number of recruits, one of whom, *David Goodrich*, was killed at the battle of *Brandywine*, in the subsequent campaign. Of another company, *Reuben Calkin* was lieutenant, and a number of men enlisted under him. There are none now remaining of either company.

A large depot of provisions and military stores had been established at *Danbury*, and in the month of April, an expedition was sent out from New York to destroy them. It was commanded by Major General Tryon, of the British army, and consisted of two thousand men. They landed at a place called *Compo*, in the south-west part of the town of Fairfield, and proceeding through the towns of *Weston* and *Redding*, reached Danbury, and effected their object, which was the destruction of the stores. The most active measures were taken to spread the alarm through the adjacent country, and to collect the militia to repel the invaders. On the evening of the 26th of April, a messenger arrived in this town bringing the intelligence, and requiring the immediate marching of such forces as could be collected, to meet the enemy. The bell commenced tolling, and it was kept tolling through the night, and it was a night of great terror and solemnity. Colonel Ebenezer Gay, who then commanded the militia in this vicinity, gathered together as many troops as could be collected on so short notice, and marched for the scene of action; and on the morning of the 28th reached Danbury, and finding that the British had retreated, pursued them. The route which the British had taken on their retreat,



brought them on the west side of the *Saugatuck River*, which empties into the Sound a mile or two west of Compo, where their fleet lay. They were intercepted in their attempt to reach the bridge over this stream, by General Arnold, who was then in command of a few regular troops, and were guided by some Tories to a fording place, a little higher up,—and it was while they were marching up on the west side of the stream to reach this fording place, that they were first observed by the troops from Sharon, who were endeavoring to reach the bridge, and to join the corps under Arnold. As the British marched by them on the low grounds which border on the river, Adonijah Maxam, who had not forgotten the injuries which were heaped upon him while a prisoner in England, begged permission of the commanding officer to steal down the hill from the left flank and shoot a few of them. He was strictly forbidden, however, to execute this perilous undertaking. The British marched by unmolested, and our troops took undisputed possession of the bridge. The enemy came down on the east side of the river, and having taken ground a little to the east of the bridge, fired upon our men who were stationed there. Arnold, perceiving the danger to which his men were exposed, brought his artillery to bear upon the new position of the enemy, and firing upon them over the heads of such of his men as were upon the bridge, soon drove them beyond the reach of his cannon. They took new ground a little to the south-east of their first position, and it was determined to attack them there with small arms. A few regular troops under Arnold, commenced the action with great bravery, and our men at the bridge were ordered to join them. They marched up the hill with a good degree of resolution, to sustain the regular troops. As they came within the reach of the enemy's musketry, however, some one, and it was never known who, cried out *retreat*. As this word was uttered, Lieutenant *Samuel*

*Elmer, Jr.,\** perceiving the effect it was producing, and the trepidation which was taking hold of his comrades, stepped up on a stone wall, and cried out, "*for God's sake, men, don't retreat, don't run, march up the hill and drive them off.*" He had barely uttered these words, when he was shot through the body.—The only words he spoke afterwards, were addressed to his uncle, Mr. George Pardee, who was near him: "*Uncle George,*" said he, "*I am a dead man.*" A general retreat of our men followed; and the British, being left unmolested, marched to their shipping, and sailed for New York.

A large depot of provisions had been established in this town early in the war. The store-house stood a little west of *Nathaniel Berry's*, on the old road that formerly ran through his land before the present turn-pike road was established, and a guard was constantly kept at the depot during the war. The fate of the stores at Danbury, caused much apprehension for the safety of those here. There were frequent alarms, and the citizens frequently collected in arms to defend the public property at the store-house. On one Sabbath day, during the sermon, *Jonathan Gillett*, who lived directly opposite the meeting house, came out of his house, during the public service, and proclaimed with a loud voice that the British were coming. A dense smoke was seen rising beyond *Tower Hill*, a mountain in the State of New York, a few miles south-west of Sharon, and the belief was general that the enemy was at hand. Parson Smith was foremost in exhorting the people to firmness and resist-

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\* This brave young officer, was a son of Colonel Samuel Elmer, and a lieutenant in the New York line of the continental army. He had returned home on a short furlough the very day the intelligence of the invasion of Danbury was received in Sharon, and was one of the first to volunteer to drive off the enemy. He was buried on the spot where he was killed, by two of his comrades, soon after the battle. His body was afterwards removed to the burying yard at Green's Farms, where it reposes to this day.

ance, and he entreated them to stand firm, not only as soldiers of the cross, but as soldiers of their country and of liberty. The alarm, however, proved to be groundless.

The approach of a large British army from Canada, under General Burgoyne, and the expedition up the North River under General Vaughan, filled the whole country with terror and despondency, and frequent alarms were spread, requiring the constant and active duty of the militia. The tories, too, in Dutchess county, New York, where they were numerous, took courage from the prospect of success which the progress of the British arms afforded, and embodied themselves into a formidable force. Information was brought to this town during the summer, that four hundred of them had assembled at *Carpenter's*, as it was then called, now *Washington Hollow*, and that they were threatening destruction to all the whigs in the neighborhood. An expedition was immediately set on foot to break up the gang. Volunteers, to the number of fifty or sixty, immediately assembled.— They marched immediately for the Hollow, and were joined by others in their progress, so that when they arrived at *Bloom's Mills*, which is about four miles north of the Hollow, their numbers amounted to two hundred men. There they encamped for the night, and marched the next morning to attack the tories.— They found them paraded in the meadow, just north of the public house, and marching up with spirit, fired upon them. The tories fled immediately, and as many as could, made their escape. About thirty or forty of them, however, were made prisoners, and brought to this town and locked up in the old church, at the head of the street. They were taken to *Exeter*, in New Hampshire, where they were kept in close confinement for two years. This proceeding broke up the gang, and no further trouble was had from this class of persons during the war.

A company of light horse, which belonged to Sharon and its vicinity, were kept on duty through the whole summer of 1777, on the North river, watching the motions of the enemy in that quarter. It was commanded by captain *Dutcher* of Salisbury, and *David Boland* of Sharon was the cornet of the company. The smoke of burning Kingston was distinctly seen from our mountain when it was destroyed by the Hessian troops. The only person from this town now living, who belonged to captain Dutcher's company, is *Adonijah Maxam*.

A large number of men marched from this town under the command of colonel Gay to the northward, to oppose the progress of Burgoyne's army, and shared in all the conflicts which preceded its surrender.\* *John Hollister*, one of the soldiers from this town, was killed at the battle of Stillwater, on the 7th of October.

The intelligence of the surrender of Burgoyne's army was received here under circumstances which produced a deep impression. Nothing had been heard respecting the state of affairs at Saratoga, excepting that two severe battles had been fought, without any very decisive result. This state of uncertainty produced extreme anxiety regarding the issue of the campaign, and many trembled at the prospect of defeat and disgrace to the American arms. The firmness and confidence of parson Smith, however, never forsook him, and he did every thing in his power to rouse the drooping spirits of his people. On Sabbath the        day of October, he preached a sermon from *Isaiah xxi. 11*, "*Watchman, what of the night, the*

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\* The following is the record of an adjourned church meeting holden on the 23d of September, 1777. "Met according to adjournment, but by reason of a great number being call'd off into ye service of their country and but a few members met, adjourned to the 4th Tuesday of November next ensuing."



*watchman saith the morning cometh."* The discourse was entirely adapted to the condition of public affairs. He dwelt much upon the indications, which the dealings of Providence afforded, that a bright and glorious morning was about to dawn upon a long night of defeat and disaster. He told the congregation that he believed they would soon hear of a signal victory crowning the arms of America, and exhorted them to trust with an unshaken and fearless confidence in that God who he doubted not, would soon appear for the deliverance of his people, and crown with success the efforts of the friends of liberty in this country. Before the congregation was dismissed a messenger arrived, bringing the intelligence of the surrender of Burgoyne's army. Parson Smith read the letter from the pulpit, and a flood of joy burst upon the assembly.

During the next year a large part of Burgoyne's army was marched through this town on their way to the south. They were met here by a regiment of continental troops under the command of *Lieut. Colonel Jameson*, who was afterwards somewhat conspicuous in the affairs connected with the capture of Major Andre, and who here took charge of the prisoners.\* One of Burgoyne's soldiers, by the name of *Robert Gibbs*, a Scotchman, from Dundee, who was wounded and taken in the battle immediately preceding Burgoyne's surrender, was here left by his comrades. He died recently, at the age of 94.

After the campaign of 1777, the seat of the war was removed to so great a distance that no further call

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\* A large proportion of the prisoners of this detachment were *Hessians*. They were subjected to the most severe discipline, and were entirely inoffensive. Each regiment was furnished with a chaplain and divine service was frequently performed. They encamped here over night, and when they started in the morning, the whole body sang devotional music on the march. Governor Smith informed the author that he, then a lad, followed them two or three miles to hear their singing.



was made for the militia of the town, except for the purpose of keeping guard on the sea coast. The burdens and privations of a pecuniary kind, however, which are incident to a state of war, were borne by the people of this town without a murmur, and the unanimous feeling in favor of the cause which marked the commencement of the war, continued with unabated ardor to the close of it.

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## CHAPTER IX.

Small-Pox—Shay's Rebellion—Methodist Society formed—Death of Parson Smith—Settlement of Mr. Perry.

Soon after the close of the war, the town was visited with the small-pox. In the month of November, 1784, the wife of *Joseph Marchant*, who lived where *Esq. Gay* now lives, visited some friends in the state of Massachusetts. Soon after her return she was taken sick, and died after a short illness. The physicians differed as to the nature of the disorder. Dr. Smith believing it to be the small-pox, and Dr. Hamilton thinking otherwise. Her funeral was attended on the Sabbath, and a large number of the inhabitants were present. It was soon rumored that Dr. Smith had intimated an opinion that she had died of the small-pox, and the most intense anxiety was felt on the subject. All doubt, however, was soon dissipated by the breaking out of the disorder in various parts of the town. A time of great and overwhelming distress followed, and nearly thirty persons died within a month or two. Such a scene of distress and mortality had never before been experienced in the town, and

the terrors which the pestilence excited are remembered by many at this day with the most intense interest.\*

The spirit of dissatisfaction with the existing state of things which prevailed through a portion of New England, soon after the close of the revolutionary war, and which finally resulted in open resistance to the constituted authorities, in the western part of Massachusetts, affected, in some degree, the public mind in Sharon. Many things conspired to produce discontent and uneasiness, and the records of the town give a clue to some of the causes which agitated the community.†

In the spring of 1787, during the existence of the insurrection under *Shays*, in Massachusetts, Doctor *John Hulbert*, who resided in the town of *Alford*, *Berkshire county*, *Mass.* and who was an active partizan of *Shays*, came to Sharon for the purpose of awakening a similar spirit in this vicinity, and of producing an efficient co-operation. Having received his

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\* The following are the names of some of the victims of that terrible scourge. In the up-town neighborhood, *Amos Marchant*, *Perez Gay*, *Lydia Waldo*, Mr. *David Elmer*, *Eunice Jennings*, and her sister. On the mountain, Mrs. *Nathaniel Hamlin*, *Betsey Downs* and *Erastus Downs*. In the down-town neighborhood, *Samuel Doty* and wife and *John Bates* and wife, and besides these there was a large number of children who died of the disorder.

† At a town meeting legally warned and held in Sharon, on the 9th day of October, 1786, for the purpose of instructing the representatives, it was voted, 1. that it is the mind of the town that a paper currency be struck. 2. That the table of fees be reduced to the old standard. 3. That there be no *deputy sheriffs* in the state.

At a town meeting legally warned and held in Sharon on the 22d day of February, 1787, for the purpose of presenting a petition to the General Assembly for the emission of a *paper currency*, voted, 1. whether they would do any thing about it? voted in the affirmative. 2. Voted that the draught laid before the town relating to the premises, is accepted and approved, as the mind of the town, and that the same be put in the public prints.

medical education here, and possessing qualities calculated to give effect to his representations, Hulbert soon succeeded in organizing a considerable number of men under the guidance of one *William Mitchell*, who was constituted their captain, and who, in as private a manner as possible, and chiefly in the night season, trained and drilled them for service.\* As this occurred in the month of May, and intelligence of these movements reached Hartford where the General Assembly were then in session, that body made no delay in despatching a member of the council, and two members of the house of representatives, with instructions to put down the insurrectionary spirit by ordinary process of law, if practicable, otherwise by military force. The committee on their way hither called on the State's attorney, at Litchfield, took warrants grounded on his official information, and with the sheriff of the county made their appearance here before any one was apprized of their mission, much less of their approach. Hulbert, Mitchell, and two others were arrested and taken to Litchfield, for examination. Hulbert was prosecuted under the act against "*vagrants, vagabonds and common beggars*," but on his solemn promise to leave the state forthwith, he was suffered to depart. The others, being charged with treasonable practices, were bound over to the next term of the superior court. Thus, by the seasonable measure of the government, the spirit of insubordination was effectually quelled, and as the suppression

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\* Dr. *Hulbert* was the father of the late Hon. *John W. Hulbert*, a counsellor of much eminence, and a distinguished member of congress from the Berkshire district, Mass. and who, after a splendid professional and political career, died suddenly, a few years since, at *Auburn, N. Y.* where he then resided. Capt. *Mitchell* was a clothier by trade. He came to Sharon from *Farmington*, now *Bristol*, in the spring of 1783. He owned and improved the clothier's works lately owned by Capt. James Gay, one mile south-east of the meeting house in the first society.

of the insurrection in Massachusetts followed not long after, the prosecutions against Mitchell and others were discontinued.\*

There was a decided majority of the voters in this town who were opposed to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. *Josiah Coleman* and *Jonathan Gillet*, were the delegates from this town to the convention which was called to pass upon the question of its ratification in January, 1788. Those gentlemen voted against its adoption and when it was acted upon in a subsequent town meeting, the majority was large against it.

The first preaching by clergymen of the Methodist connexion was in 1788. A Mr. *Cook*, an Englishman, preached once or twice at *Samuel Hitchcock's*, in the south part of the town, and attracted considerable attention by his bold and stirring appeals to the consciences of his hearers. He also preached once or twice in the ball-room in *Gallow's* tavern, which was kept where Dr. *John W. Smith* now lives. It is said that some of the authority of the town hinted to the tavern keeper that another license would not be granted to him if he opened his doors again to the preacher. Very soon after this, however, *Freeborn Garretson*,

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\* The following account of these proceedings is copied from a Litchfield paper of May 21, 1788.

"Last Thursday evening arrived in this town from Hartford Colonel *Samuel Canfield* and *Uriah Tracy*, Esq. with orders from the General Assembly, to repair to the town of Sharon, and put a stop to the insurrection that appeared to be raising in that town. The same evening they set off, accompanied by the sheriff and one of his deputies, and arrived at Sharon about day-break and soon arrested five persons who were supposed to be the principal actors and abettors in the insurrection. They were conducted to and safely lodged in our gaol, on Saturday last, in order for examination. It is hoped the early and spirited exertion of our Assembly will prevent any further disturbance in that town. Much praise is due to the gentlemen employed on that occasion for their prudence, humanity and judicious proceedings.

who was then laboring in Dutchess county, N. Y. and who was very early distinguished by his labors and his zeal in the cause of Methodism, was invited by Mr. *Sylvanus Hanchet*, to preach at his house.\* The Methodist society was organized soon afterwards, and some of its first members are yet in the land of the living. Those venerable fathers in the ministry, *Freeborn Garretson*, *Peter Moriarty*, and others of equal notoriety, supplied the society with preaching for many years, and up to this time the Methodist church has never been destitute of regular stated preaching. A camp-meeting was holden in the month of September, 1805, in a grove near *George W. Peck's*, and another in the following year near *Alpheus Jewett's*. The first meeting house was erected in 1808, in *Calkinstown*, so called, and there the society met for worship for nearly thirty years. In 1836, this house was given up as a place of worship, and a neat and beautiful brick edifice was erected at the north end of the town street, which is now the meeting house of the society.

The Rev. Mr. Smith continued in the ministry in Sharon until the 27th day of November, 1806, when the venerable and beloved pastor went down to the grave. About two years before his decease, on account of the infirmities of age which were then upon him, he requested the assistance of a colleague, and the society with great unanimity invited the Rev. *David L. Perry*, to become their minister in connexion with Mr. Smith. Mr. Perry was ordained on the 6th day of June, 1804, and from that time Mr.

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\* An interesting discussion took place between Parson Smith and Mr. Garretson at one of these meetings at Mr. Hanchet's, which excited much attention at the time. It related to the disputed points which then and now divide the two Christian sects of which they were the respective ministers. It is not supposed, however, that any good results followed the controversy.



Smith preached but seldom. He however delivered a sermon on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, which made the occasion one of most tender and affecting interest. The character of this excellent man is well and very truly summed up in the epitaph inscribed upon his monument, which is as follows :

The Rev. COTTON MATHER SMITH,  
Born in Suffield, Oct. 16, 1731, ordained in Sharon,  
August 28, 1755, died Nov. 27, 1806, in the 76th year of  
his age and 52d of his ministry.

Sound in the faith, in life and conversation as becometh the Gospel ; in doctrine incorrupt ; in manner forcible and persuasive ;

A fond husband ; a tender father ; an unvarying friend ;

Having for more than *fifty years*, earnestly contended for the faith once delivered to the saints, he is gone to render his final account to the great captain of his salvation.

People of his charge, he still speaks to you in a voice awful as death, solemn as the grave,

Prepare to meet your God.

The Rev. *David L. Perry* was born at Harwinton, Conn. on the 21st day of June, 1777. He was the son of the Rev. David Perry, who was then the minister of Harwinton, but who was afterwards and for many years settled at Richmond, Mass. He was a graduate of Williams College, of the class of 1798, and for three years commencing in October, 1800, was a tutor in that institution. He studied divinity with the Rev. Dr. Backus, of Somers, Conn. and upon the unanimous invitation of the church and society in this town, he settled here in the ministry as before stated. Soon after his settlement, he married the only daughter of the Rev. Dr. Strong, minister of the first church in Hartford, by whom he had ten children. He continued in the ministry here until his death on the 25th day of October, 1835, having been suddenly cut off by a stroke of apoplexy. He was a man of very pure character, and of respectable talents, and he died, much lamented by the people of

his charge, and by his brethren in the ministry. His wife survived him about five years.

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## CHAPTER X.

Biographical notices—Family sketches, genealogies, &c.

*Abel, David* was from Lebanon, and came to Sharon in 1760. He purchased of John Roberts the lot of land on which his son, the late Mr. Sluman Abel lived. He had five sons, *Sluman, David, William, John* and *Andrew*. *William* was a soldier in the revolutionary army and a pensioner. Mr. Abel died June 23, 1781, at the age of 60. The name of the neighborhood called *Abel street*, was derived from him.

*Ackley, Thomas* from Chatham, came to Sharon in 1768. He purchased of Phineas Post, of Lebanon, the thirty-second lot in the first hundred acre division. He lived on the Ellsworth turnpike, where Uriah Tucker now lives. He had three sons *Thomas, David* and *Abraham*. Thomas entered the revolutionary army in 1776, and was taken prisoner at the capture of Fort Washington. He died during his captivity. Mr. Ackley the father, died Nov. 6th, 1792, at the age of 67.

*Atherton, James* was an early settler from Coventry. He lived near the place now owned by Rev. Aaron Hunt, south of Hitchcock's Corner. He had sons *John, David, James, Simon* and *Moses*. The family removed from the town in the course of a few years, to Newtown, N. J.

*Avery, William* was from Lyme, in 1777. He was a hatter by trade, and lived in Ellsworth, on the *Perkins* place, so called. He married a sister of Capt. Isaiah Everett. He removed to Duanesburgh, N. Y. early in the present century, where he died.

*Bacon, Jacob*, was from Canaan, in 1741, and lived where George White now lives. He was a large land-holder. He removed to Salisbury, in 1748.

*Badcock, Zebulon* was from Coventry, and came to Sharon, in 1745. He settled near where Lovel W. Chapman now lives, but in 1747 he bought the seventeenth home-lot, known as the *Patchen place*, and lived there nearly forty years. He afterwards returned to Coventry.

*Bailey, Joseph* was from Lebanon, and came to Sharon, in 1774. He purchased of Samuel Chapman, the farm on which his son, the late Deacon Joseph Bailey resided, in Ellsworth. He died Sept. 15, 1802, at the age of 69. He had three sons, *Joseph*, *Pelatiah* and *Benjamin*, who resided in the town and died here.

*Barnes, Thomas* was an early settler in the northwest part of the town, and lived near the present residence of Alanson Wheeler, Esq. He came into the town in 1750. He had three sons, *Thomas*, *Dan* and *Jonah*. He died in 1760. *Thomas*, the oldest son, lived on the same place until his death, March 7, 1807, at the age of 74. *Dan* lived in the town of Amenia, N. Y. *Jonah*, the youngest son, was a physician, and a man of great wit and shrewdness. He lived at what is now called the *Evertson* place, west of Governor Smith's.

*Barrows, David* came from Mansfield before the revolutionary war. He lived where Adonijah Maxam now lives. He had no children. He died on the 6th day of January, 1815, at the age of 83.

*Barrows, Amos* was a brother of the preceding, and lived many years where Stephen White lately lived, in the Great Hollow. He kept a tavern, and was accidentally killed, by falling from the hay-loft in his barn, on the 5th day of December, 1779, at the age of 50 years.

*Barstow, Seth* was from Rochester, Mass. in 1771. He lived at the lower end of Abel street, where his grandson, Seth B. St. John now lives. He had five sons, *Allen, Samuel, Seth, Gamaliel* and *Charles*. Samuel was a physician, who formerly lived in Great Barrington, Mass. and who died there in 1813. Gamaliel is also a physician, now residing in Broome county, N. Y. He has been a member of Congress, and a member of the Senate and Treasurer of the State of New York. Mr. Barstow, the father, died in 1822.

*Bates, John* was one of the first settlers of the town. He lived a little below Joel Beecher's present residence. His daughter, Sarah, who was born on the 25th day of February, 1739, was the first white child born in Sharon, except Jehiel Jackson. She was afterwards the wife of John Randall. Mr. Bates and his wife both died of the small-pox, when it prevailed in the town in December, 1784.

*Beard, Nathan* was from Milton, in Litchfield. He came to Sharon, in 1779. He purchased of the administrators of Charles Gillet, the farm on which the late John Jackson lived, and there resided. He for several years carried on the forge in *Hutchinson Hollow*. He died in 1792. He had a large family, of whom James Beard, now residing in town was the youngest son.

*Beardslee, John* was from Newtown, in 1760. He married a daughter of Cornelius Knickerbacker, and

lived many years at the *Sprague place*, where the late Charles Prindle resided.

*Bennett, Capt. Edmund* was from the parish of Columbia, in Lebanon, and came to Sharon soon after the revolutionary war. He was a blacksmith by trade, and by his industry and economy accumulated a handsome estate. He lived on the mountain, two miles east of the meeting-house. His wife was a daughter of Charles Gillet, who was killed in Canada, in the revolutionary war. He was for many years town treasurer and held many important offices in the town. He died on the 1st of December, 1829, at the age of seventy-four. One of his sons, Hon. Milo L. Bennett, is a judge of the supreme court of Vermont.

*Betts, James* was from Norwalk and came to Sharon at an early day. He lived near the Sprague place, in the Gay district. He died in 1758. He had two sons, *Ezekiel* and *Zophar*, the latter of whom officiated for many years as chorister in Mr. Smith's congregation. Zophar Betts died the 2d day of May, 1778, at the age of forty-four.

*Blackman, Dr. Simcon* was from Newtown, and came to Sharon in 1789, and settled on the mountain, where Dr. Sears now lives. He studied medicine with Dr. Shepherd, of Newtown, and here acquired eminence and distinction in his professional career. He enjoyed a large share of the public confidence, and represented the town in the legislature at five sessions. He was an Episcopalian by religious profession, and in his last will bequeathed to the society in Sharon, of which he was a member, the sum of two hundred dollars as a fund for the support of preaching. He died of dropsy on the 16th of August, 1812, at the age of fifty-three. He left no children.

*Boardman, Benjamin* came to Sharon in 1742, and settled where Benjamin Hollister, Esq. now lives. He



sold that place to *James Warren*, in 1748, and built on the spot where the late *Calvin Noyes* lived. He had one son, *Thaddeus Boardman*, who lived on the west border of Mudge Pond. In 1786, the elder and younger Boardman sold their real estate to *Frederick Lord*, of Hartford, and removed to the west.

*Bogardus, Jacob* merchant, came to Sharon from *Amenia, N. Y.* in 1764. He lived in the old brick house, known as the *Taylor house*, a little north of *Gov. Smith's*. He was a Dutchman, and built the large Dutch barn, which within a few years stood in such close contiguity with the town street, near his dwelling-house. He sold his place in 1775, to *Ebenzer Dibble*, and again returned to the state of New York. He built the large brick house, one mile west of the village, now owned by *Mr. Morehouse*.

*Boland, Dvaid* was from *Woodbury*, in 1767. He was a Scotchman by birth and purchased of *Samuel Dunham*, the tenth home-lot, originally *Samuel Hutchinson's*, being the same on which the old stone house now owned by *Anson Boland* stands. He had two sons, *William* and *David*, both of whom were officers in the revolutionary army. He was possessed of a valuable real estate, which, by his last will he gave to his grandsons, *Reuben* and *John Boland*, during their lives, remainder to their eldest male heirs.

#### His Epitaph.

In memory of *DAVID BOLAND*, who died Aug. 31, 1789,  
aged seventy-nine.

The stage of life when once pass'd o'er,  
Fixes our state to change no more,  
Our work is great and must be done,  
An heaven to win, an hell to shun,  
Then seize the promise while you may,  
Nor lose one moment by delay.

*Botsford, Ephraim* was from *Newtown*, and came to Sharon, in 1765. He purchased of *Daniel Bald-*

win, a tract of land in the north part of the town, opposite Homer Pardee's, and lived there until his death in 1795. He had two sons, *Elnathan* and *Ephraim*, the former of whom died in 1782 and the latter in 1821.

His Epitaph.

In memory of Mr. Ephraim Botsford,  
Who departed this life Dec. 5, 1795, aged seventy-four.

When you, my friends, this tomb draw near,  
Bedew my urn with one kind tear;  
Then look by faith to realms above,  
Where all is harmony and love.

Epitaphon Wolcott, son of Ephraim Botsford, who died  
Sept. 1, 1785, aged eleven.

The youth who late with vigor shone,  
Now lies interred beneath this stone,  
From death's arrest no age is free,  
Prepare, my friends, to follow me.

*Bouton, Daniel* was from Stamford, and was the first settler on the lot owned by the late Cyrus Swan, Esq. He died Nov. 14, 1740, at an early age. His widow, Elizabeth, afterwards married Abel Munn, who died in 1758. She continued to occupy the house of her first husband long after she became a widow the second time. She is often spoken of by aged people as *old mother Munn*.

*Brockway, Walston* the first of the Brockway family in Sharon, came from Branford in 1752. He settled in the south-west part of the town, near the line of Kent, and died there in 1813, at the age of ninety. His son, the late Asa Brockway, was a soldier of the revolution and a pensioner.

*Buel, Eliphalet* was from Salisbury, and was brother of the late Col. Nathaniel Buel, of that town. He came to Sharon in 1767, and settled where Homer Pardee now lives. He died of the small-pox, on the 5th of February, 1777, aged forty-nine. His only son *Nathaniel*, died a prisoner in New York, a short time

before, and his wife soon after, of the same disease. Their common fate is commemorated in the following

Epitaph.

The only son is gone but twenty days,  
The indulgent father follows him to ye grave  
Where we must all repair; alas, how soon  
Our morning sun goes down at noon.  
The son and husband both are gone,  
The mother and the wife, how soon  
Must yield to death, and here to lie  
To tell the living they must die.

*Burr, Walter* was from Fairfield. He lived at what is called the *Burr place*, in the valley, and owned a very valuable farm, a great portion of which is in the state of New York. He died in 1802.

*Calkin, Lieut. Stephen* was from Lebanon, and was an original proprietor of the town. He drew the thirty-first home-lot and lived where Abraham Weed now lives. He had seven sons, *Stephen, Joseph, Elijah, Timothy, Amos, Justus* and *David*, all of whom settled in the town, and most of them in the same neighborhood with their father. The neighborhood which is called Calkinstown, perpetuates their name. Mr. Calkin died in 1781. He was the grand-father of the late James Calkin, and of Justus Calkin, now living.

*Camp, Abel* from New Milford, came to Sharon in 1769. He lived on the mountain where the late Capt. Bennett resided, and remained in town about twenty years.

*Canfield, Hon. John* was a son of Samuel Canfield, of New Milford, who was one of the judges of the county court, for Litchfield county, and a deacon of the church in New Milford. Mr. Canfield was born at New Milford in 1740, and graduated at Yale College in 1762. He studied law and established himself in the practice of his profession in this town, in

1765, being the first lawyer that lived here. He purchased of Parson Smith, the lot next south of Judge Sterling's, and built the old brick house now owned by that gentleman. Mr. Canfield enjoyed an enviable reputation and was holden in high estimation by his fellow citizens. He represented the town in the legislature at ten different sessions. He was a professor of religion and enjoyed the reputation of a sincere and humble Christian. In 1786 he was elected a member of the Continental Congress, and had he lived to take his seat in that body, would probably have been a distinguished member. He died, however, on the 26th day of October, 1786, at the age of forty-six. The grief of the community at his death was general and deep, and the old men of this day speak of him with unbounded confidence and attachment. He left but one son, John M. Canfield, Esq. who now resides at Sacket's Harbor, N. Y. and a number of daughters. The Hon. John C. Spencer, now Secretary of War, is his grandson.

#### His Epitaph.

Sacred to the memory of the Hon. JOHN CANFIELD,  
A member of Congress for this State,  
who died the 26th day of October, A. D. 1786,  
in the forty-sixth year of his age.

'T is not for lifeless stone to tell thy worth,  
A partner's heart the deep impression wears,  
Thy orphans oft, around this hallowed earth,  
Shall tell a father's love with speaking tears,  
And numerous friends who swell the tide of grief,  
Thy great and generous deeds shall oft relate,  
Thus through revolving years thy name shall live,  
'Till to immortal life, this slumbering dust shall wake.

*Canfield, Hon. Judson* was a son of Col. Samuel Canfield, of New Milford, and a nephew of Hon. John Canfield. He graduated at Yale College in 1782. He came to Sharon in 1787, and commenced the practice of law. He built the house now occupied by

Nathaniel Berry and lived there. He was a member of the house of representatives at seventeen sessions, and for several years a member of the council. He was also a judge of the court of common pleas. He left Sharon in 1815, and removed to the state of Ohio, where he died in 1839, at the age of more than eighty years.

*Canfield, Col. Samuel* was a brother of the preceding, and came to Sharon in early life. He was an assistant commissary of issues, in the war of the revolution, and toward the close of his life drew a handsome pension. He was for many years a merchant of extensive business, and was town clerk from 1792 to 1815, having succeeded Daniel Griswold, Esq. in that office. He was a member of the assembly at several sessions. He died while on a visit at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. on the first day of October, 1837, at the age of eighty-three.

*Carrier, Deacon Timothy* was from Colchester, in 1747. He bought of Jacob Bacon a part of the twelfth home-lot, where George White now lives. He was appointed a deacon of the church in 1766, which office he held until his death. He had but one son who survived him, and he removed from the town soon after the decease of his father. He died on the 22d day of February, 1781, at the age of eighty-two. His wife died about the same time, and the stone which marks their resting place has upon it the following

Epitaph.

Here man and wife, secure from strife,  
Lie slumbering side by side,  
Though death's cold hands dissolved the bands,  
It could not them divide.  
This tomb shall burst and yield its trust,  
This pair will live again,  
With purer love to soar above,  
Where joys immortal reign.



*Cartwright, Nicholas* was the common ancestor of the Cartwright family, which have been numerous in the town. He was originally from Barnstable, Massachusetts, and lived a short time on Philip's Patent, now South-East, N. Y. He came to Sharon in 1756, and settled near the place where Earl Cartwright now lives. He was baptized in September, 1781, when he was nearly eighty years of age. He died in May, 1782. He had three sons, *Reuben*, *Christopher* and *Samuel*. Reuben lived where George W. Peck now lives. He died, leaving a numerous family, in May, 1790, aged forty. Christopher lived near David Curtiss' present residence, and before the revolutionary war he removed to Shaftsbury, Vermont. In 1775, he joined the army under general Montgomery, and was in the battle of Quebec, in which Montgomery fell. He died of the small-pox, in the American camp, on the island of Orleans, before the retreat from Canada. Samuel lived where Austin Cartwright now lives. He was also in the army with his brother Christopher, but escaped his untimely end. He lived to a good old age, and died January 17th, 1819, aged seventy-eight. He left two sons, *Nicholas* and *Anson*, who are both now deceased.

*Chaffee, Joshua* was from Mansfield, and came to Sharon in 1755. He married the only child of Matthew St. John, Jun. and first settled where Caleb and Richard B. Cole now live. In 1760, he removed to Ellsworth, where his son Joel Chaffee now lives. He died in 1789, aged fifty-six. He left three sons, *Joel*, *Matthew* and *Joshua B.* Matthew died soon after the death of his father. Joshua B. died in 1832. He was at the time of his death one of the magistrates of the town. Joel is still living at an advanced age.

*Chamberlain, Deacon Isaac* was born in New Marlborough, Mass. and came to Sharon with his step-

father, Mr. John Hollister, in 1756. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He married a daughter of Jonathan Sprague, and had several children. He entered the army early in the revolutionary war, and was sergeant of artificers. He was appointed a deacon of the congregational church in 1799, which office he held till his death. He was a man of strong mind, of great decision of character, and for many years was one of the pillars of the town.

His Epitaph.

Deacon ISAAC CHAMBERLAIN, a patriot of '76,

A soldier of the revolution, and for many  
years of his subsequent life an  
officer of the first church in Sharon.

Born in New Marlborough, Mass. Oct. 24, 1756,  
died at Sharon, July 14, 1833.

Grounded and settled in the faith.—*St. Paul.*

*Chapman, Obadiah* was from Colchester, and came to Sharon in 1741. He settled in the south part of the town, opposite Anson Boland's present residence. He was the owner of a large real estate. He died in 1761. He left four sons, *Obadiah, Pelatiah, Matthias* and *Robert*. *Obadiah* died in 1763. *Pelatiah* was the father of the late William Chapman, and he died in 1759. His widow afterwards married Dr. Ashbel Goodrich. *Robert*, the youngest son, and the survivor of them all, was a soldier in the old French war, and after his return from the service settled in the south west part of the town, where his son, the late *Elijah Chapman* lived. He died in 1814, at the age of eighty. He was the father of *Obadiah Chapman* who still survives.

*Chapman, Samuel* was from Colchester. He came with the first settlers. He settled on the forty-sixth home-lot, near Calvin Jackson's. He afterwards removed to the lower end of *Abel street* where his grandson *Caleb Chapmam* now lives. He had three sons,

*Samuel, Ezekiel and Nehemiah.* *Caleb Chapman* is a son of the last named. *Ezekiel* died a soldier in the French war.

*Chappel, Amos* was a son of *Caleb Chappel*, of Lebanon, one of the original proprietors. He came to Sharon in 1760, and settled in Ellsworth, where *Gamaliel Everett* lives.

*Church, Jehiel* was from Great Barrington, Mass. and lived a little north of *Adolphus Everett's*. He died May 1, 1819, at the age of seventy-seven. He had nine children.

*Cluxton, Samuel* was originally from the old Plymouth colony. He came to Sharon in early life. He lived where *Ansel Cartwright* now lives. He was a faithful soldier in the revolutionary war and died in 1820.

*Cole, Caleb* was from Norwalk and came to Sharon, in 1743. He settled on the place now owned by his great grandson, *Albert Cole*. He had sons, *Zebulon, Matthew* and *David*, which last named was the father of *Caleb Cole* and *Richard B. Cole*. He died in 1780.

*Coleman, Josiah* came from Hebron in 1771. He lived where *Earl Cartwright* lives. He was a son of *Noah Coleman*, of Colchester, one of the original proprietors of the township. He was a practical surveyor and was considerably employed in that business. He was a member of the General Assembly in October, 1783, and in May, 1784, and again in May, 1788. He was also a delegate to the convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States, to the adoption of which he was very strongly opposed. One of his sons, *Josiah*, was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, in 1776, and on his return from captivity died at Milford, January 8, 1777, of disease contracted in the British prison-ships. He had four other sons, *Aaron, Elihu, Jesse* and *Amasa*. The eldest, *Dr. Aaron*

*Coleman* is still living at *Warren*, at a very advanced age. Mr. Coleman died February 23, 1813, aged eighty.

*Epitaph.*

When rocks dissolve and skies in smoke decay,  
Rise, sleeping dust, to an unclouded day.

*Comstock, Samuel* was from *Lyme*, and came into Sharon with the first settlers. He built a log house directly opposite Caleb and Richard B. Cole's present dwelling house, and a cluster of apple-trees which he planted the first year, is still standing. He was the first collector of taxes in the town, and was a highly respectable man. He sold his place in 1748 to Deacon Matthew St. John, of Norwalk, and himself removed to New Fairfield. His home-lot was the thirty-second.

*Conkling, Capt. Benjamin* was from Norwalk, and lived for many years where *Bela Lamb* now lives. He was often appointed select-man of the town, as well as to other offices. He afterwards lived in Vermont for several years, but towards the close of life returned to *Hitchcock's Corner*, where he died on the 1st of October, 1823, at the age of eighty-six. He was the father of Dr. Ebenezer H. Conkling, who formerly lived at Hitchcock's Corner.

*Corbet, John* was the first settler at the place where the late Samuel Petit lived, in the north part of the town. He was from Lebanon in 1743. He built a saw-mill, at an early day, near Abel Benedict's. He afterwards lived on the mountain at the *Elderkin place*, so called, near Elijah Marsh's.

*Crippen, Jabez* was from Colchester, and was an original proprietor of the township. He drew the twenty-first home-lot, and his house stood on the ground now occupied by the *Grosvenor house*, so called, nearly opposite Governor Smith's. He was the first select-



man ever chosen in the town. He had sons, *Jabez*, *John*, *Samuel*, *Thomas* and *Joseph*. His son *Thomas* lived where *Russel B. Calkin* now lives. About the year 1752, the father removed with several of his sons, into *Amenia*, N. Y. near where the late *Jonathan Pennoyer* lived; and that neighborhood was formerly called *Crippentown*. Mr. *Crippen* died at *Manchester*, Vermont, about 1785.

*Crocker, Oliver* was from *Lebanon*, before the revolutionary war. He settled where *Philander Abel* now lives, and died April 12, 1812, at the age of eighty-one. His widow died recently, at the age of more than ninety years. He left no son.

*Curtice, Caleb* was from *Hebron* and was an original proprietor. He drew the thirtieth home-lot, and lived where the late *Elijah H. Williams* lived. He had sons, *Caleb*, *Jeremiah*, *Daniel* and *Nathaniel*. *Caleb* lived at the *Lockwood* place, near *Dr. Sears*. *Jeremiah* lived at the *Hanchet* place, now occupied by *A. Bryant*, and *Daniel* at the place owned by the late *Capt. Gibbs*. *Nathaniel* lived on the home-lot. He was killed by the kick of a horse, October 19, 1802. Mr. *Curtice*, the elder, died November 20, 1777, at the age of seventy-four.

*Curtis, Seth* was from *Danbury*, and came to *Sharon* in 1782. He lived where *George W. Peck* now lives. He was the father of the late *Noah Curtis*, and of *David Curtis*, yet surviving. He died March 27, 1804, at the age of sixty-seven.

*Day, Thomas* was from *Colchester* and came to *Sharon* in 1755. He lived where *Calvin Jackson* now lives, on the mountain. He had two sons, *Jonathan* and *Jeremiah*, the former of whom died in early life. His younger son, *Jeremiah*, was educated at *Yale College* and graduated in 1756. Soon after he left college he was married, and settled in town as a



farmer. He was constable in 1765, and 1766, and selectman the latter year. He was representative to the Assembly in October, 1766, and in May, 1767. His wife died in August, 1767, and soon after that event he turned his attention to the ministry. He was, for many years, the minister of the parish of New Preston, in Washington. He was the father of the Rev. Jeremiah Day, D. D. President of Yale College and the Hon. Thomas Day, for many years secretary of the state of Connecticut.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Mr. JONATHAN DAY, who departed  
this life January 8, 1763.

Spectator! here you see  
Exemplified in me,  
What you must shortly be.

In memory of Mrs. Sarah Day, the late  
amiable consort of the Rev.

Jeremiah Day, who  
departed this life Aug. 25, 1767.

She gives life, but O, pitiable consideration!  
gives it at the expense of her own, and at  
once becomes a mother and a corpse.  
Flere et meminisse relictum est.

In memory of Mr. Thomas Day,  
Died February 28, 1772, aged eighty-two.

Life how short,  
Eternity how long!

*Davis, Jonathan* was from Rutland, Mass. and came to Sharon in 1746. He purchased of Jacob Bacon, the sixth home-lot, opposite the stone house now owned by Anson Boland. He sold this property in 1750, and purchased a large tract of land below Hitchcock's Corner. He had one son, *Ezra*, who died in early life, leaving a widow and three children. Mr. Davis afterward lived over the line, in Oblong, but where he died is not known.

*Delano, Deacon Thomas* was from Wareham, Mass. He lived a short time in Tolland, and came to Sharon in 1759. He settled in the south-west part of the town. The name was originally spelt De La Noy. Mr. Delano was chosen deacon of Mr. Knibloe's church in 1767. He died September 8, 1803, aged seventy-seven. He had two sons, *Jethro* and *Stephen*, the latter of whom died in 1840, at the age of more than ninety years.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of JETHRO DELANO, who died  
 July 17, 1787, aged twenty-nine,  
 Virtue alone to him did give,  
 The gift of knowing how to live;  
 A pattern to the growing youth,  
 A never failing friend of truth.

*Deming, Daniel* was from Saybrook, and came to Sharon in 1782. He purchased of Amos Tyler, the place where his widow now lives. He was the father of *Stephen Deming*, Esq. of Litchfield, and Dr. *Ralph Deming* of Sharon. He died May 15, 1816, at the age of sixty-six.

*Dibble, Capt. Ebenezer* was from Salisbury in 1776. He lived in the Great Hollow, near the watering place. He sold his farm to Adonijah Maxam in 1795, and removed to Saratoga county, N. Y.

*Dibble, Ebenezer* was a son of Rev. Ebenezer Dibble, of Stamford, formerly Episcopal missionary in Sharon. He was a merchant and owned the brick house now known as the *Taylor house*. In 1781 he sold out to Robert G. Livingston, Esq. of New York, and removed to Pine Plains, N. Y. where he died. He was the father of Fyler Dibble, Esq. now of the city of New York.

*Dotey, Capt. Samuel* was the ancestor of the Dotey family. He was from the old Plymouth colony, and

came to Sharon in 1747. He lived a little south of Lovell W. Chapman's. He practised surveying. He and his wife were both cut off by the small-pox in 1784. He had two sons, *David* and *Perez*. David was a physician and lived near Hitchcock's Corner, and was for a while a captain in the revolutionary service. He died February 9, 1817, at the age of seventy-six.

*Downs, David* Esq. was from New Haven, and came to Sharon about the year 1768. He married a daughter of Mr. Thomas Day, and settled on the mountain near Calvin Jackson's. He was a tailor by trade. He was captain of a company in the revolutionary service, and was, with his company, taken prisoner at the *Cedars* in Canada, in 1776. He was for many years one of the magistrates of the town, and one of its representatives in the Assembly at eleven sessions. He had several sons who maintained a highly respectable character, but there are none of his descendants now remaining in the town. He died December 13, 1813, at the age of seventy-seven.

*Dunham, Capt. Jonathan* was from Colchester, and was a leading man in the first settlement of the town. He lived opposite Jay S. Canfield's, and there kept the first tavern in the town. He was the agent to the Assembly to procure the incorporation of the township, and was appointed to call the first town meeting. He was standing moderator of all the town meetings holden during his life time, and select man of the town during the same period. His race, however, was a short one, as he died on the 28th day of February, 1745, at the age of fifty-nine. He had several sons, one of whom, *Samuel*, built the stone house, now owned by Aaron Boland. Capt. Dunham's grave stone is the oldest in our church yard.

*Elliott, Samuel S.* was from Killingworth and came to Sharon in 1780. He purchased of his brother-in-law, Reuben Hopkins, the place where Joel B. Beecher now lives. His wife was the daughter of Colonel John Williams. He was the father of John A. Elliott, who now resides in town. He died on the 22d day April, 1812, at the age of sixty.

*Elmer, Deacon Jonathan* was from Norwalk, and came to Sharon in 1746. He first purchased of Caleb Jewett, the lot on which Gov. Smith now lives, and there resided till 1751, when he sold it to Jonathan Gillet, and removed to what is now called the *Martin* place, near the stone bridge. There he lived till his death January 5, 1758, at the age of seventy-three. He was highly respected as an officer in the church, and as a member of society. He had several sons, who lived in town, but there are none of his descendants bearing his name, remaining among us.

*Elmer, Martin* was a son of the preceding, and was a cooper by trade, and a Baptist by religious profession. He lived a bachelor, and died on the 8th day of August, 1778, at the age of seventy-three. The following epitaph is said to be highly expressive of his character :

In silent shade,  
Here lies the dust,  
Of him who made,  
The Lord his trust.

*Elmer, Colonel Samuel* was a son of Deacon J. Elmer, and was a brave officer in the revolutionary war. He was appointed a major in Colonel Hinman's regiment, in 1775, and was engaged in active duty in the campaign of that year. The next year he was appointed a colonel in the New York line, and continued in command of a regiment while he remained in the army. He lived in the town until about 1801,

when he removed to the town of *Elmore*, in Vermont, where he remained till his death. He was the father of *John Elmore*, Esq. of Canaan.\*

*Everett, Ebenezer* was from Hebron, in 1745, and settled where Adolphus Everett now lives. He had three sons, *Isaiah*, *Ebe* and *Eliphalet*, the two latter of whom were revolutionary soldiers. *Eliphalet* was for several years the steward of General Washington's military family. He lived many years where Erastus Lord now lives, in Ellsworth, but spent the latter part of his life in Watertown, N. Y. *Isaiah Everett* died August 4, 1834, at the age of eighty-two, leaving sons *Adolphus*, *Asa*, *Gamaliel*, *Russell*, and *William*. *Ebe Everett* died January 5, 1840, at the age of eighty-six, leaving sons, *Samuel E. Augustus*, *Elmore* and *John*.

*Everett, John* was a brother of Ebenezer Everett, and came to Sharon from Windham in 1757. He was a blacksmith by trade, and lived on the road which formerly led north from Philo Hamlin's, now discontinued. He had but one child, a daughter, who married Ebenezer Sprague. Mr. Everett went to Ohio, in the early settlement of that state and died there.

*Foster, David* was from Lebanon in 1750. He lived on the place which was occupied by the late John Jackson, who was his son-in-law. He was a leading man in the affairs of the town for many years. He was a member of the Assembly at the October sessions in 1763 and 1764, and selectman eight years. He died in 1793.

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\* Colonel Elmer's name was, by mistake, spelt *Elmore*, in the commission he received from Congress, and from that circumstance, he adopted the latter method of spelling it, and it has been continued by the family till the present time.



*Foster, Elijah* was a son of the preceding, and was a highly respectable man. He lived where Dr. Sears now lives, and was an early favorite of the town. He was for many years a constable. He entered the continental army as a lieutenant in the campaign of 1776, and was in active service till the close of the year.

*His Epitaph.*

Here lies the body of Lieut. ELIJAH FOSTER,  
who died of the small-pox, January 14, 1777,  
in the forty-second year of his age,  
on his return from the army.

Inspired with freedom and her virtuous cause,  
To save his country from a tyrant's laws,  
Resolved an end to the unnatural strife,  
And in the glorious conflict, lost his life.

*Frisbie, Deacon Ebenezer* was from Branford, and was the first settler at the place occupied by the late *Benjamin Bailey*, on the Ellsworth turnpike. He came to Sharon with the first settlers, and being a surveyor, he was much employed in laying out lands in the early location of the township. He was town clerk from December 1743 to January 1746, and one of the deacons of the church nearly the whole time of his residence in the town. He had one son, Capt. Hezekiah Frisbie, who settled where Aaron Dunbar now lives, in Ellsworth. He died October 20, 1793, aged eighty-nine.

*Epitaph.*

How short is life we mortals see,  
How long is vast eternity,  
In time prepare for death and be  
Happy to all eternity.

Deacon Frisbie was buried in the Ellsworth grave yard.

*Fuller, Benjamin* was from Colchester, and came with the first settlers. He lived on the next lot below Governor Smith's. He was among the first who died

in the town, having departed this life in December, 1740. His widow afterwards married *Nathaniel Skinner*, Esq. He had three sons, *Matthew*, *Josiah* and *Benjamin*, the latter of whom was father of the late Capt. *John Fuller*.

*Gager, Dr. Samuel R.* was born at Norwich, May 23, 1763, and was an assistant surgeon in the navy in the revolutionary war. Soon after the close of the war he visited England. He established himself in Sharon in the practice of surgery in 1788. He was long celebrated in his profession, and was much respected as a citizen. He represented the town in the Assembly in the years 1821, 1822 and 1829. He was also for many years a justice of the peace. He died August 4th, 1835.\*

*Gallow, Joseph* was from Hudson, N. Y. in 1785. He owned and occupied the place where Dr. John W. Smith now lives, and kept a tavern there for many years. He finally returned to Hudson, where he died.

*Gay, John* Esq. was born in Dedham, Mass. and in early life settled in Litchfield, and was among the first white inhabitants of that town. In 1743 he came to Sharon, and purchased of Israel Holley, the thirty-ninth home-lot, which was in the north part of the town. His house stood nearly opposite the present residence of his grandson, Calvin Gay, Esq. and was standing till within a few years. Mr. Gay was a highly respectable man, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-four. He died on the 6th day of August, 1792. He had sons, *John*, *Ebenezer*, *Fisher* and *Perez*. *John* was the father of the late Capt. Daniel

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\* It is worthy of remark that *William Gager*, the ancestor of the Gager family in this country, was of the same profession as his descendant, here noticed. Gov. Dudley calls him "a right godly man and a skillful chyrurgeon." His son John came to Connecticut with the younger Gov. Winthrop and settled in New London, and from him Dr. Gager descended.

Gay. He died January 1, 1776, at the age of forty-eight. *Ebenezer* was a merchant, and built the brick house now owned by Mrs. Hunt. He was a colonel in the militia, and frequently commanded detachments in the revolutionary war. He was the father of the late Mr. *David Gay*. He died July 16, 1787, at the age of sixty-one. *Fisher Gay* settled in Farmington, where his descendants now reside. He died in the city of New York, early in the revolutionary war. *Perez Gay* died of the small-pox in 1784. He was the father of *Calvin Gay*, Esq. now living.

*Gibbs, Job* was from Wareham, Mass. and came to Sharon in 1747. His house is still standing, being the old dwelling next north of Jay S. Canfield's. Mr. Gibbs was a merchant and did a large business for those times. He had three sons, *Sylvanus*, *Heman* and *Job*. Capt. *Sylvanus Gibbs*, the eldest, was an officer in the revolutionary war, and died on the 19th of June, 1834, at the age of eighty-one.

*Epitaph.*

Here lies interred ye body of JOB GIBBS. He died of ye small-pox, Dec. ye 18th, 1760, in ye 37th year of his age.

I'm here confined, as you must be,  
Oh then prepare to follow me,  
Because from death no age is free,  
Get faith in God's eternal Son,  
In him there is salvation,  
Boast not thyself of coming time,  
Because to-morrow is not thine,  
Seek then, to-day, that you may find.

*Gillet, Jonathan* was from Colchester, in 1745. He lived in several places during his early years, but finally established himself in 1753 where George Skinner now lives. Here he resided thirty years and kept a tavern. He sold this place in 1783, and purchased of Timothy Carrier, Jun. the place where George White now lives, where he resided till his death. He was representative to the Assembly at the

May and October sessions in 1788, and a delegate to the convention called to ratify the constitution of the United States. His wife was a daughter of Thomas Day, and sister of Rev. Jeremiah Day, of New Preston. Mr. Gillett died December 31, 1814, at the age of eighty-nine.

*Gillet, Charles* was a brother of the preceding and came to Sharon from Colchester, in 1755. He was a blacksmith by trade, and settled where Henry J. Platt now lives. He was town treasurer from 1760 to 1771, when he removed to the mountain, having purchased of Rev. Jeremiah Day, of New Preston, the place lately owned by John Jackson. He enlisted into Capt. Downs' company, and marched to the northward in 1776. While the army lay at *the Cedars*, in Canada, he was killed by a party of Indians, lying in ambush, as he was riding out on business connected with his duty as commissary. He left several children, one of whom was the wife of the late Capt. Edmund Bennett.

*Gillson, Eleazer* was from Goshen, Orange county, N. Y. and came to Sharon in 1784. He had been a soldier in the revolutionary war, and settled a little north of Deacon Woodward's. He was one of the first emigrants to Ohio, and the first mail carrier on the post road between Pittsburgh and Cleaveland. He carried the whole mail in his pocket on foot. He died recently at the age of nearly ninety years.

*Goodrich, William* was the ancestor of the Goodrich family which has been quite numerous in the town. He was originally from Wethersfield, and first moved to Litchfield, where he remained ten years. He afterwards removed to Sheffield, Mass. and when the township of Sharon was sold, he became the purchaser of two rights. He brought his family to the town in the fall of 1738, and built a hut near the outlet of

Mudge Pond. Here he spent the winter, with no neighbors except Indians, nearer than the Dutch settlements at Leedsville. He went to mill on foot, during the winter, once to New Milford, and once to Red Hook, N. Y. on snow shoes, and carried his wheat on his back. That he was a sincere Christian we may well believe from the introductory clause in his last will and testament, the first recorded on the probate records for the district of Litchfield. After speaking of the uncertainty of life as a reason for making his will, he says: "wherefore, committing my body to the dust, from whence it was taken, and my soul to the bosom of my dear Lord Jesus Christ, hoping and believing that he will raise me up with all his saints at the glorious morning of the resurrection, I give, &c." Mr. Goodrich died on the 31st day of March, 1743, at the age of fifty-six. He had sons, *Samuel, Jared, William, Elnathan, David, Elisha, and Solomon*, and their descendants have been very numerous. His wife survived him about seven years, and one tomb stone marks the resting place of both, on which is inscribed the following

*Epitaph.*

Here lie the husband and the wife,  
Interred beneath this double tomb,  
This double witness may suffice,  
To prove that death will be our doom.

*Goodwin, John P.* was from Hartford, and came to Sharon in 1784. He lived where his son, the late Hezekiah Goodwin, resided, and died on the 5th of May, 1807, aged eighty-two. He had two sons, John P. and Hezekiah, the last of whom was a man much respected and beloved. He was a corporal in the continental army, and was eight years in the service. His discharge, under the hand of General Washington, spoke highly of his merits. He was a representative



to the Assembly in May, 1818. He was killed at the raising of a small building, belonging to Benjamin Hollister, Esq. on the 15th of May, 1833, and his untimely end was deeply lamented. He died at the age of seventy-two.

*Gould, John* was an original proprietor, from Hebron, and drew the thirty-fourth home-lot, the same on which George Cole now lives. His house stood on the hill west of Mr. Cole's present dwelling-house. He appears to have been, at one time, a man of handsome estate, but in his old age became poor, and was supported by the town. He was grave digger for many years. He died about 1782.

*Gould, Job* was from New Milford, in 1763, and purchased of Deacon Jackson, the place on the mountain now owned by his grandson Major David Gould. He had two sons, *Job* and *David*, the former of whom settled in Mudgetown, near Isaac Reed's, and the latter remained on the mountain. Mr. Gould, the elder, died February 27, 1795, at the age of ninety-five. His son David, died April 19, 1824, at the age of seventy-seven. Job, Jun. died at the time indicated in the following

*Epitaph.*

Sacred to the memory of JOB GOULD, Jun.  
who died April 19, 1794, aged fifty-nine.  
O painful thought, yet we must know,  
The grave's the place where all must go,  
If dear, good, wise, and just they be,  
Yet death's their lot as here we see.

*Gray, John* was from Scotland, and came to Sharon in 1743. He first settled in the valley, and his house stood on the bank, a little east of Henry Hotchkiss's. In 1748, he sold this place to *Abel Wood*, and removed to the mountain, a little east of the Gould place, where he died in 1761. He left sons, *John, Silas, Darius*

and *William*. Darius was the father of Silas A. Gray, Esq. The revolutionary services of William have been described in a former page.

*Gregory, Joseph* was from Norwalk in 1759. He lived where Philo Hamlin now lives. He was a merchant for many years. He removed to Catskill, N. Y. where he died. He had sons, *Stephen, Justus, Ebenezer, Uriah, Elias* and *Daniel*.

*Griswold, Ephraim* was an early settler, and lived where David Woodard now lives. He had three sons, *Azariah, David* and *Jabez*. He removed to Spencertown, N. Y. before the revolution. Azariah Griswold, was a subaltern officer in the revolutionary army. He lived where William Knibloe now lives. He sold this place in 1786 to John Foster.

*Griswold, Daniel* Esq. was from Norwich in 1756. He lived where Richard Smith, Esq. now lives. He was a physician and pursued the practice of that profession for many years. He was appointed a justice of the peace at an early day. On the death of Col. Williams in 1774, he was appointed town clerk, which office he held till his death. He also succeeded the latter gentleman as deacon in the church.

*Epitaph.*

Sacred to the memory of DANIEL GRISWOLD, Esq.  
who departed this life Dec. 22, 1792,  
aged sixty-six.

The wise, the good, the virtuous and the just,  
Lies here entomb'd to moulder into dust,  
But death must yield, resign the mouldering clay,  
To shine and sparkle in eternal day.

*Griswold, Francis* was a brother of the preceding, and came to Sharon in 1762. He was a tanner and currier by trade, and he lived on the corner a little north of Ansel Mallory's. His tannery was near his house where the cider-mill now stands. He died November 6, 1778, at the age of forty-three.

*Griswold, Capt. Adonijah* another brother of Daniel Griswold, Esq. came to Sharon in 1762. He settled in Mudge town where Jesse Lake now lives. He was a lieutenant in Capt. Down's company in 1776. He died September 19, 1807, at the age of sixty-eight. He had three sons, *Adonijah, Chester* and *John*, the latter of whom is still living in Tompkins county, N. Y.

*Hamilton, David*, was from Lebanon, and was the first settler on the place now owned by Judge Sterling. He afterwards lived opposite Governor Smith's. He appears to have been the great land speculator of the day, his name appearing on the records as the grantor or grantee in deeds, more frequently than any other. He was also for a time a deputy sheriff. He died in 1781, leaving sons, *Dudley, John*, and *Joseph*. Joseph was a physician, and practised medicine in the town for several years. Dudley formerly lived where Trowbridge Lockwood now lives. Mr. Hamilton disposed of most of his real estate in town previous to his death. He was largely interested in land in Vermont, and in what was called the *Susquchannah Purchase*.

*Hamlin, Cornelius*, was an early settler from Wareham, Massachusetts, and lived near Mrs. Hunt's. He afterwards lived in the Hollow, near the iron works, in which he was a part owner. He also lived for a while near the head of Mudge Pond. In 1760 he removed to Spencertown, New York, but soon returned, and here spent his days. He had one son, Cornelius, who died in early life.

*Hamlin, Deacon Ebenezer*, was also from Wareham, and first lived where George Skinner now lives. He afterwards removed to the south part of the town, below Hitchcock's Corner. By his last will, he left 24 pounds old tenor bills, for the support of the gos.

pel in the Congregational society at the Corner. He had sons, *Ebenzer*, *Thomas*, *Isaac* and *Lewis*.—Thomas was the grandfather of Philo Hamlin, who is the only descendant of Deacon Hamlin now remaining in the town. Deacon Hamlin died in 1755.

*Hamlin, Deacon Benjamin*, was son of Deacon Eleazer Hamlin, of Fredericksburg, now Carmel, in Putnam county, New York. He came to Sharon in 1780, and lived at different places in the north-west part of the town. He was elected Deacon of the Congregational Church in 1793, and held the office till his death. He maintained a very pure and spotless character, and died, universally lamented.

*Epitaph.*

The remains of BENJAMIN HAMLIN,  
 Seniour Deacon of the first Church of Christ in Sharon,  
 whose piety, meekness, and sweetness of temper, rendered him  
 alike a blessing to the church, an ornament to society,  
 and the delight of his acquaintance.  
 This eminent servant of God,  
 expired in full assurance of a blessed immortality,  
 on the 6th Oct, 1820, in the 61st year of his age.

*Hanchet, Sylvanus*, was from Salisbury, in 1769. He lived where Alden Bryan now lives. He is celebrated as being the first person who formally invited the Methodist preachers into Sharon, in 1788. It was at his house that the first Methodist society was formed, by Rev. Freeborn Garretson, and where public worship was celebrated for several years. He removed to the State of New York many years since, where he died.

*Harvey, Joel*, was from New Milford, in 1742, and settled in the valley. He built a grist-mill, which stood more than sixty years. He also built the stone house, in the valley, in 1747. He was a large land holder, and had a very numerous family, many of whom died

of the consumption. Mr. Harvey died Dec. 26, 1796, at the age of 84. His Epitaph,—

All nations must  
Return to dust.

*Hatch, Capt. Ebenezer*, was from Kent, in 1768. He lived on the place now owned by Rev. *Aaron Hunt*, below Hitchcock's Corner. He was a respectable man, and served many years as selectman, and in other important offices. He left the town many years since.

*Heath, Bartholomew*, was from Lebanon, and was among the first settlers. He lived in the north part of the town, where his son, *Thomas Heath*, now lives. Thomas Heath is the only person now living in the town, who is a son of one of the original proprietors.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Mr. Bartholomew Heath, who died Feb. 11, 1789.  
in ye 79th year of his age.

My glass is run, my days are spent,  
The fleeting moments Heaven hath sent;  
And now to God I yield my breath,  
And calmly fall asleep in death.

*Hide, David*, was from Lebanon, in 1748. He purchased of Samuel Gillet the 41st home lot, the same on which Homer Pardee now lives. He was appointed constable in 1750, and served in that capacity, and as collector, ten years. He was also a deputy sheriff for several years. He was unfortunate in not being able to render a satisfactory account of the moneys he had collected, and on that account fell into disrepute the latter part of his life.

*Hide, William*, was from Lebanon, in 1759. He lived where John Parsons now lives. He had two sons, *Eleazer* and *William W.* He died Dec. 26, 1770, at the age of fifty.



*Hitchcock, Samuel*, was from Norwalk, in 1752.— He purchased of Jonathan Gillet the place where Gov. Smith now lives, and resided there five years — He then removed to the south part of the town, where his son, the late Asa Hitchcock lived, and there spent the remainder of his days. It was at his house that the first Methodist sermon, preached in the town, was delivered. He died January 1, 1794, at the age of sixty-eight. He had seven sons, *Samuel, Thomas, Solomon, Amariah, Penuel, Stephen*, and *Asa*. The latter died Dec. 26, 1829, at the age of fifty-nine.

*Holley, Israel*, was an early settler, from Stamford. He first owned and lived upon the 39th home lot, which he sold to John Gay, Esq., in 1743, and removed to the Great Hollow. He there lived on the place lately owned by Capt. Dibble. He had two sons, *Israel* and *Nathaniel*.

*Holley, Joseph*, was from Stamford, and was the original owner of one half of the 36th home lot, the same on which the late George Bissell afterwards lived. This he sold in 1743, to John Sprague, and he afterwards lived in *Turkey Hollow*, a little north of Deacon Woodard's. He had three sons, *Jonathan, John*, and *Sylvanus*. *Jonathan* removed to Richmond, Massachusetts. *Sylvanus* lived near the outlet of Indian Pond. *John*, who was the second son, was the father of Luther Holley, Esq., who was for many years an eminent citizen of the town of Salisbury. This last named gentleman was born in *Turkey Hollow* in 1752.

*Hollister, Josiah*, from Glastenbury, was the common ancestor of the Hollister family which resided in the south part of the town. He purchased of Matthew Judd, in 1742, the 2d home lot, the same on which John B. Lovell now lives. He had two sons, *Josiah* and *Samuel*. *Josiah* settled on the home lot, and

*Samuel* settled where Deacon Woodard now lives.—*Josiah* had two sons, *John* and *Benjamin*. *Benjamin* settled in Oblong, New York, near the present village of Leedsville, where his descendants yet remain.—He died Oct. 3, 1801, at the age of 74. Lieut. *John Hollister* died May 19, 1769, at the age of fifty, leaving sons, *Jeremiah*, *David*, *John*, *Nathan*, and *Josiah*. *John* was killed at the battle of Stillwater, in 1777.—*David* became the owner of a large and valuable real estate. He lived where Enoch Lambert now lives.—He was the father of the late *John J. Hollister*, and of *Joseph L. Hollister*, now living, who is the only survivor of this once large family now remaining in town.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of David Hollister, who departed this life  
Feb. 20, 1807, in the 53d year of his age.

Alas! how soon all earthly joys are fled,  
Our dearest friend is buried with the dead.  
In vain we mourn, in vain the loss deplore,  
In vain look back to what he was before,  
From us he's gone, on earth he's seen no more.

*Hollister, Samuel*, from whom the family of that name in the south-east part of the town are descended, was from the parish of *Kensington*, in *Farmington*, now Berlin. In 1744 he purchased of Dr. George Holloway, of Cornwall, one hundred acres of land on the Ousatonic River, which had formerly been laid out to Joseph Skinner. There he settled and died. He had two sons, *Gershom* and *Elisha*. *Gershom* was unfortunately killed at the raising of a barn, in Cornwall, in 1792. *Elisha* lived to an advanced age, and died in 1815. He left sons, *Samuel*, *Elisha*, *Amos* and *Asahel*. There are many of his descendants yet remaining in that neighborhood.

*Hunt, Daniel*, was from Lebanon, at the earliest

settlement of the town. He lived on the mountain, at what was called the *Randall House*. He afterwards lived at the *Tanner place*. He removed to Vermont before he died. One of his daughters, who was the mother of Dr. Sears, lived to the age of ninety-four years.

*Hunt, Phineas*, a brother of the preceding, was from Lebanon, in 1747. He bought of Caleb Chappell, the farm on which his descendants now reside in Ellsworth. He had but one son, the late Phineas Hunt, to whom, by his will, he gave all his estate.— He died August 22, 1787, at the age of 72. The son died Oct. 28, 1827, at the age of 69.

*Hunter, Jonathan*, was from Wareham, Massachusetts, where he had been Deacon of the church. He came to Sharon in 1747, and purchased of Benjamin Richmond the farm on which Benjamin Sears now lives. His wife was a daughter of Deacon Ebenezer Hamlin. He died in 1762. He had two sons, *David* and *Jonathan*, who removed, soon after his decease, to Stillwater, New York. His widow afterwards married Lieut. John Pardee.

*Hunter, Ebenezer*, was from Norwich, about the year 1760. He lived on the mountain, in the southwest part of the town. His son, *Nathaniel Hunter*, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, is yet living, at the age of eighty-three.

*Hurlburt, Capt. Samuel*, was from Lebanon, in 1743. He purchased of Caleb Strong the west half of the 25th home-lot, on which Capt. Benjamin Lines now lives. He was the first merchant in the town.— He was at one time possessed of a large and valuable estate, but before the close of his life he was reduced to poverty. He died June 4, 1789, aged 77.

*Hutchinson, Samuel, Esq.*, was one of the first settlers, and the second magistrate in the town. He was

from Lebanon, and drew the 10th home-lot, the same on which the stone house now owned by Anson Bolland stands. In 1751 he sold that place, and purchased the first minister's lot of the Rev. Peter Pratt. His house stood where Judson St. John's tavern now stands. In 1762 he removed to Spencertown, New York, where it is supposed he died. He had three sons, *Samuel*, *Ezra*, and *Solomon*, the two latter of whom settled in this town, and gave the name to *Hutchinson Hollow*, where they lived. The only descendant of Esq. Hutchinson now residing in town, is his great grandson, *Orrin Hutchinson*.

*Jackson, Deacon Ebenezer*, was from Norwalk, and settled on the 42d home lot, now owned by David Gould, on the mountain. He was early chosen Deacon of the church, and was a highly reputable and useful man. He had six sons, *Ebenezer*, *Joshua*, *John*, *Abraham*, *Stephen* and *Joseph*, most of whom settled in the eastern parts of the town. In 1763 he sold his home lot to *Job Gould*, and from that time lived with one of his sons at the River till his death, in 1766.

*Jewett, Capt. Caleb*, was from *Norwich*, now *Lisbon*, in 1743. He first purchased and occupied the lot on which Gov. Smith now lives, but in 1744 he sold it to Deacon Elmer, and bought of *Samuel Chapman*, the farm on the mountain now owned by his grandson, John S. Jewett. He was selectman of the town twelve years, and Representative to the Assembly at eleven sessions. He had sons, *Caleb*, *Nathan*, *Thaddeus* and *Alpheus*, the last of whom, after a life of much public employment, and of great usefulness, died recently at the age of 86.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Capt. Caleb Jewett,  
who died Jan. 18, 1778, in the 68th year of his age.

Let not the dead forgotten lie,  
Lest we forget that we must die.

*Jennings, Joseph*, was from Fairfield, in 1771.—He lived at the place lately owned by George Bissell. He died August 5, 1780, at the age of 64. He left sons, *Justin, Reuben, Charles* and *Joseph*. They all left the town soon after the death of their father.

*Johns, Benjamin*, was an early settler in the Valley, and lived on the *Burr* place. He sold out in 1752 to *Samuel Smith*, and removed into the State of New York, near the present residence of Moses Clark, in North East. He died of the small pox.

*Jones, Evan*, was the first settler upon the place owned by Deacon William M. Smith. He came with the first settlers, from Hebron, and remained in the town till 1750, when he sold out to the Rev. John Searl.

*Juckett, Elijah*, was originally from old Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts. He served faithfully and honorably through the Revolutionary war, and was a sergeant in the light infantry under General La Fayette. He was in the severe conflict at Stony Point, when that post was taken by General Wayne, as well as in several other battles. He was a pensioner under the act of 1818. He died in 1839, at the age of 78.

*Kellogg, Oliver, Esq.*, was from Sheffield, Massachusetts, and settled in Sharon in 1788. He was a clothier by trade, and lived at Hitchcock's Corner.—He was a highly respectable and influential citizen, and was a representative to the Assembly at sixteen sessions. He was also for many years one of the magistrates of the town. He died Sept. 17, 1830, at the age of 70.

*Ketcham, Elihu*, was the first settler on the *Bates* place, so called, now owned by Merrills McLean.—This he sold in 1748 to John Marvin, Jr. From that time to 1753 he lived near the school-house in the Boland district, when he left the town.



*King, George*, was from Windsor, in 1784. He had previously been connected with the commissary department of the army, and at the close of the war, established himself as a merchant, in company with Eli Mills. He prosecuted business with great success for many years, and accumulated a large and valuable estate. He died Nov. 31, 1831, at the age of seventy-seven.

*Knibloe, Rev. Ebenezer*, some account of this gentleman is given in a foregoing part of this work. It may here be added that he had three sons, *William, Elijah*, and *John P.*, all of whom were cut off within a few weeks of each other, by the epidemic which swept over the town in 1812.

*Knickerbacker, Cornelius*, was one of the early Dutch inhabitants of Salisbury, and lived at the Furnace Village. In 1748 he exchanged farms with Capt. John Sprague, and took possession of the 37th home-lot, where the Messrs. Prindle now live in Gay street. The pond now called *Beardslee Pond*, was for many years called *Knickerbacker's Pond*, from its vicinity to his residence. He died March 3, 1776, at the age of eighty-four.

*Lake, Joseph*, was a soldier in the old French war, and in the war of the Revolution. He came to Sharon from Stratford, in 1772, and purchased of Jabez Hamlin the place where his son, Andrew Lake, now lives, near the Indian Pond. He lived, for many of the last years of his life, in the eastern part of the town, where Jeremiah Calkin now lives. He died April 24, 1813, at the age of seventy-four.

*Landers, Joseph*, was from Wareham, Massachusetts, in 1748. He bought of Caleb Chappell the 8th home-lot, on which Dr. Ralph Deming now lives.—He died on the 5th day of August, 1781, at the ad-

vanced age of 94. His wife, who died the preceding January, reached the age of ninety-seven.

*Their Epitaph.*

Behold and see this wonder here,  
This couple lived full seventy year  
In wedlock bands; now yield to death,—  
Ninety odd years 'tis from their birth.

*Landers, Joseph, Jr.*, was a son of the preceding, and lived with his father on the 8th home-lot. He was appointed a Deacon of the Church in 1781, in the place of Deacon Frisbie, resigned, which office he retained till his death. He was a representative to the Assembly at the May session 1782.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Deacon Joseph Landers, who died  
August 31, 1801, aged 79.

Entomb'd in earth, beneath this stone,  
My aged body lies at rest,  
With this terrestrial ball I've done,  
And now reside among the blest.—  
Far from confusion here I lie,  
And calmly rest my hoary head;  
My loving friends, prepare to die,  
For there's no peace but with the dead.

*Lewis, Samuel*, was from Hebron, in 1743. He was the first settler on the 9th lot in the first hundred acre division, the same where Ichabod Everitt now lives in Ellsworth. He continued in town about thirty years, and then removed to New Ashford, Massachusetts. His son, Samuel Lewis, Jr., was a soldier in the early part of the Revolutionary war, and a history of his captivity in England, and his escape, is given in the former part of this work. He died soon after his return, leaving a wife and three children.

*Lillie, David*, was from Windham, in 1765. He settled in Gay street, and built the house now owned

by the Messrs. Prindle. He removed to Ohio about the year 1800.

*Lockwood, Nathaniel*, was from New Canaan, in 1784, and purchased the farm on the mountain known as the Lockwood place, near Mr. Jewett's. He died Feb. 26, 1785, at the age of thirty-three, of consumption. His sons, *Trowbridge* and *Lewis*, still survive. His widow afterwards married John Williams, and she is still living at a very advanced age.

*Lord, Jonathan*, was from Colchester, and was one of the first inhabitants of Ellsworth, where he settled in 1743. He lived where Lewis St. John now lives. He died in 1760.

*Lord, Joseph, Esq.*, was a son of the preceding, and came to the town with his father in 1743. He was for many years the only Justice of the Peace in Ellsworth. He was for several years a Select man, and member of the Assembly in October 1777. He died Oct. 28, 1778, at the age of fifty-eight. He was the first person buried in the burying yard now used in Ellsworth.

*Lott, Baltus*.—This individual appears to have been a squatter upon the public lands before the township was sold. He was probably a Dutchman, and had taken possession of a considerable tract of land in Connecticut and New York, and had erected a house and barrack, and made considerable clearings. His territory embraced what is now called the *Burr farm*. The proprietors made many efforts to remove him, but he resisted them all until March 1742, when Joseph Skinner purchased his possessions for 300 pounds old tenor, and he went away. He afterwards lived in the north part of Amenia, New York.

*Lovell, John*, came to this part of the country from Rochester, Mass., in 1745. He first settled in Oblong,

N. York, where Lewis Lockwood now lives. In 1770 he removed to Sharon, and purchased of David Boland the 2d home-lot, where his grandson, John B. Lovell, now lives. He died Nov. 3, 1789, at the age of fifty-eight. His only son, Capt. Joshua Lovell, who was a respectable citizen of the town, lived upon the same place until his death, in February 1838, at the age of seventy-one.

*Lovell, Joseph*, was from Rochester, Massachusetts. He first settled in Kent, but in 1767 he purchased the 35th lot in the first hundred acre division, of Samuel Hollister, Jr. He lived at what was formerly known as the *Cluxton* place, on the road leading east from Caleb Chapman's. He had two sons, *Levi* and *Joseph*.

*Manrow, Joseph*, was from Norwalk, in 1744. He settled on the corner opposite John S. Jewett's, and the old orchard which he planted is still standing. In 1750 he exchanged farms with Matthew Fuller, and removed to the mountain, near David Curtis'. In 1752 he sold this place to John Jackson, and became the owner of a grist-mill near the *Bates place*. This property he sold in 1757 to David Hamilton, and removed from the town.

*Manrow, Noah*, was for more than forty years an inhabitant of Mudgetown. He came from Salisbury in 1751. He lived on the borders of the Pond, in a house lately destroyed by fire, then owned by Captain Benjamin Lines. He died May 5th, 1793, at the age of sixty-four. He left sons, *Noah*, *Younglove*, *Daniel* and *Philo*.

*Marchant, Amos*, from Newtown, came to Sharon in 1773. He bought of Ebenezer Sprague the home-lot on which Calvin Gay, Esq., now resides, and built the brick house now owned by that gentleman. He

was one of the victims of the small pox, which swept over the town with such terrible severity in 1784.— He had sons, *Joseph*, *Ashbel*, *Wheeler* and *Elijah*.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Amos Marchant, who died of the small pox,  
Dec. 19, 1784, aged 62.

Though death be potent as a king,  
And wounds with his envenom'd sting,  
Yet faith fresh vigor will impart,  
To rob the tyrant of his dart.

*Marriner, Capt. Ephraim*, was from Colchester, in 1765. He settled in Abel street, where Stephen Tickner now lives, and lived there until 1786. He then removed to the north part of the town, and resided there till his death in 1810. He was a member of the Assembly in May 1787, and in May and October 1788. He had two sons, *Ephraim* and *Buel*, who removed to Yates Co., N. York, several years since.

*Marsh, Pelatiah* was from Lebanon in 1764. He settled in the east part of the town, where his grandson, *Elijah Marsh*, now lives. He died April 8, 1790, at the age of eighty-three. His son, *Jesse Marsh*, father of *Elijah Marsh*, lived at the same place, and died October 25, 1822, at the age of eighty.

*Martin, Eliphalet* was from Windham in 1786. He first settled where *Adonijah Maxam* now lives, which place had previously been owned by *David Barrows*. He afterwards purchased of *Dr. Samuel Rockwell*, the *Elmer place*, near the stone bridge, where he resided till his death. He was much employed in the business of the town. He died April 11, 1801, at the age of forty-seven.

*Marvin, John Jun.* was from Norwalk in 1748. He bought of *Elihu Ketcham*, the farm called the *Bates place*, about one mile easterly from the meeting-house, and lived there. He was also a part owner in the



iron works at the mouth of Mudge pond. In 1752, sold the Bates place to his father, who then removed to the town, and who died February 9, 1774, at the age of ninety-six. Mr. Marvin was a member of Assembly in May, 1756 and 1768. In 1770 he removed to Brook Haven, Long Island, where he resided till his death in 1783.

*Maxam Adonijah* was from the old Colony in 1748. The name, in the early records, is spelt *Muxam*, and is so pronounced by elderly people at the present day. Mr. Maxam settled where Orrin Abel now lives, on the Ellsworth turnpike, where he died in 1760. He left four sons, *Samuel*, *Benjamin*, *Adonijah* and *Jacob*. The third son, *Adonijah*, after having gone through the active and perilous services of the revolutionary war, which have been detailed in a preceding chapter, still survives in vigorous health and in the full enjoyment of his mental faculties, at the age of eighty-eight.

*Millard, Joshua* was from Cornwall in 1768. He was the first settler upon the place now owned by *Walter Skiff* in Ellsworth. He remained in town about thirty years, and then removed to Egremont, Mass.

*Miller, Henry* was from Branford in 1750. He was the first settler on the farm now owned by deacon Jabez Swift, on the Ousatonic river, and his house, the remains of which are still visible, was on the old road that formerly led north from Swift's bridge. He afterwards lived in Kent. He was the grand-father of Hubbel Miller, Esq. of Kent.

*Miller, Deacon Gain* was born in Ireland, in 1716. He came to Sharon in 1763, and purchased of Daniel Hunt, the place formerly occupied as a poor house, near Capt. John Parson's, where he resided during his life. He was elected deacon July 6, 1781, which office he resigned in August, 1799, and the late deacon

Chamberlain was chosen in his place. He left one son, the late Thomas Miller, who was the father of Daniel Miller, yet living.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Deacon GAIN MILLER, who died  
November 16, 1809, aged ninety-three.

I've long'd to join the heavenly song,  
Of anthems ever new,  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
And bid the world adieu.

*Mudge, Ebenezer* was one of the original proprietors of the town, and was from Colchester. He drew the twenty-fifth home-lot, lying on both sides of town street, and embracing the places now owned by Capt. Lines and Baldwin Reed on the west, and by major Gould, Mrs. Hunt and Messrs. Skinner and Camp on the east. In 1743 he settled on the western border of *Skinner's pond*, as it was then called. Here he lived until his death April 21, 1758, at the age of seventy-five. He had six sons, viz. *Samuel, Mica, Abraham, Ebenezer, Jarvis* and *Joseph*. *Samuel* lived on the place now owned by Isaac Reed, which he sold in 1772, to Job Gould, Junior. *Mica* lived a while in Ellsworth, and was a part owner of the first mill near Lorin Emons's. He removed to Albany county, New York, in 1758. *Abraham* lived at the Griswold place, now owned by Jesse Lake. *Ebenezer* removed to Canaan in 1763, where he lived till 1775, when he removed to New Ashford, Mass. *Jarvis* settled on the homestead, but he soon sold it to Noah Monroe, and left the town. Thus, this numerous and respectable family had all left the town previous to the revolutionary war, but the beautiful lake on whose borders they settled will commemorate their name through all succeeding time.

*North, Capt. Thomas* was from Wethersfield in

1743. He was one of the first proprietors of the iron works in the Hollow. He lived on the twenty-sixth home-lot, known as the Captain Patchen place. He served as select-man for several years. He removed into the state of New York in 1753.

*Noyes, Calvin* was from Lyme, and was a direct descendant of the Rev. Mr. Noyes, the first minister of that town. He came to Sharon in 1792, and purchased a large and valuable real estate in the neighborhood of Benedict's mill, where he resided. He was distinguished for his public spirit, and for his many acts of private charity. He lived a bachelor, and for the last few years of his life was entirely blind. By his last will he gave the greater part of his estate to the Congregational society in Sharon, the American Education Society, the Connecticut Missionary Society and the Connecticut Bible Society. Each of those societies has received nearly seventeen hundred dollars from his estate. He died at the residence of his brother, deacon Moses Noyes, in Poultney, Vt. January 22, 1831, at the age of eighty.

*Noyes, Selden* was a younger brother of the preceding, and came with him from Lyme, in 1792. He lived where Eliakim S. Stoddard now lives. He was cut off in early life by consumption. He left sons, *Milton, Selden, John* and *Joseph*.

*Epitaph.*

Sacred to the memory of SELDEN NOYES,  
who died July 5, 1804, aged thirty-four years.  
Though death's cold stroke the bond has broke,  
That joined the hand and heart,  
Yet should they stand at Christ's right hand,  
They never more can part.

*Orton, John* was from Litchfield in 1764. He married a daughter of deacon Joseph Landers, and settled on the place now owned by his son, *Joseph*

*Orton*, which originally belonged to John Davis. He left two sons, *Joseph* and *Luther*.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of JOHN ORTON, who died April 9, 1785,  
in the forty-second year of his age.

In prime of life he yields his breath,  
While weeping friends lament his death,  
But death must yield, his dust restore,  
Where friends shall meet but weep no more.

*Pardee, Lieut. John* the patriarch of the numerous family of Pardee, in Sharon, was from Norwalk, and was an original proprietor. He was a shoemaker and tanner by occupation, and settled near the stone bridge north of the meeting-house. He was a leading and prominent man in all the affairs of the town, and was a very large land-holder. He was one of the first representatives of the town in the legislature, being elected such in October, 1755, when the town was first represented in that body; and he was chosen to that office at six sessions. He died July 13, 1766, aged sixty-nine. He had six sons who settled in the town, and whose descendants are very numerous, viz. *Thomas, Jehiel, John, James, George* and *Moses*. *Thomas* settled on the mountain, where Simeon B. Sears now lives, and he was the father of the late Capt. Samuel Pardee. He died August 1, 1806, at the age of eighty-four. *Jehiel* settled where Clark Pardee now lives and was grand-father to the last named gentleman. *John* settled in the Great Hollow, and he was the father of the late Isaac Pardee, Esq. *James* lived on the home-lot and built the brick house now known as the Pardee house. *George* and *Moses* lived just north of the stone bridge. *Thomas* and *James* were members of the Assembly several times, as was their nephew, the late Isaac Pardee, Esq. This last named gentleman died, very suddenly, on the 8th day of May, 1825, at the age of seventy-six.

*Park, Joseph* was from Middletown and was the first settler on the place owned by the heirs of the late Samuel Beecher. He sold his farm in 1746 to Nathaniel Richards, and removed to Salisbury. He had two sons, *Smith* and *Daniel*. Smith lived where Bela Lamb now lives, near George White's, until 1780, when he sold the place to Benjamin Conklin, and removed to New Canaan, N. Y. where he died. Daniel lived where Horace Reed now lives, until 1762, when he sold the place to John Pennoyer, and left the town.

*Parsons, Capt. Enoch* was from Newtown in 1763. He was a carpenter by trade, and settled where his son, Freeman W. Parsons, now lives. Being a man of more than a common education for those days, he was appointed, for many years, to "line the psalm," agreeable to the ancient manner of singing in public worship. He served as selectman and constable for several years, and was member of the Assembly in October, 1795. He died October 1, 1829, aged eighty-nine. He left four sons, *Stephen, Freeman, Enoch* and *Amideus*.

*Patchen, Abel* was from Wilton in 1783. He purchased of Zebulon Badcock the south half of the twenty-sixth home-lot, originally Deacon Skinner's, and kept a public house during his life. He was a representative to the Assembly in October, 1798 and May, 1799. He died April 9, 1805, at the age of fifty-three. He had one son, *Stephen*, who emigrated to Vermont, in early life. His three daughters, Mrs. *Skiff*, Mrs. *Lowry* and Mrs. *Chase*, all widows, still survive.

*Peck, Dr. Abner* was a physician, and came to Sharon in 1751, from Salisbury. He purchased a place of Luke St. John, a little south of Philo-Ham-



lin's. He was cut off by the small-pox, October 11, 1756, leaving a widow and two daughters.

*Pennoyer, John* came from Stamford in 1742. He purchased a part of the twenty-second home-lot, originally owned by Samuel Calkin, being the place where the late Gen. Augustin Taylor lived. He sold this place in 1749, to his son, John, and removed to the state of New York, where the late Charles Wright lived, in the town of North East. He returned to Sharon in 1769, and purchased the place at the head of the street, now owned by Chesterfield King. He died December 11, 1785, at the age of seventy-eight. He had sons, *Jonathan, John, Joseph* and *Jacob*. *Jonathan* died in 1761. *John* built the brick house, known as the Taylor house, and also the one now owned by Dr. John W. Smith, in which latter place he kept a tavern. In 1785 he removed to Hudson, N. Y. where he died. *Joseph* settled in the town of North East, N. Y. and he was the father of the late Jonathan Pennoyer. *Jacob*, the youngest son, owned the place now owned by George Skinner. He was killed on the 18th of May 1814, on the top of the *King hill*, so called, by the oversetting of his waggon, at the age of seventy-six.

*Petit, Jonathan* was from Stamford, at the earliest settlement of the town. He owned the thirty-second home-lot, and he lived on the road which is now discontinued, leading north from Philo Hamlin's. He was much employed in public affairs. He was constable nine years. He died in 1772, at an advanced age.

*Petit, Samuel* was a son of John Petit, of Stamford, and a nephew of the preceding. He lived in the north part of the town, near Benedict's mill. He died on the 8th day of July, 1826, aged eighty-eight. He left

one son, *Gideon*, who died without issue, January 1, 1829, aged fifty-seven.

*Petit, Joel* was a brother of the preceding, and was for many years an inhabitant of Sharon. He lived to a very advanced age. His son, *Joel T. Petit, Esq.* was a young gentleman of great promise, who was educated for the law, and settled in the town. After a short professional career he died of consumption, September 13, 1807, aged thirty-two.

*Pratt, Jonathan* was originally from the old Plymouth colony, and came to Sharon in 1753. He first lived in the Hollow, and was a partner in the iron works. In 1754, he removed to the south part of the town, and settled where Stephen Knibloe now lives. He died February 17, 1781, aged 61.

*Pratt, Capt. Abraham* was from Saybrook, in 1783. He purchased of Moses Reed the place on which he lived in the north part of the town, and commenced business as a shoemaker. He acquired a handsome estate, and enjoyed a large share of the public confidence. He served as selectman for many years, and was otherwise much employed in the business of the town. He died much lamented, on the 2d of March, 1840, aged eighty-one. His only surviving child is the wife of Henry Reed, Esq. of Ohio. All his other children were cut off by consumption in early life.

*Quitterfield, Abner* is supposed to have come from Norwalk in 1752. He lived in the south part of the town, on the road leading from the school-house to Joseph Orton's. He removed to Stillwater, N. Y. in 1768.

*Randall, John* was from Wareham, Mass. in 1753. His wife, who was the daughter of John Bates, was the first female and the second child born in the town. He lived on a farm now owned by Dr. Sears, a little

south of Mr. Jewett's. He died of a cancer May 19, 1807, at the age of eighty-two.

*Raymond, Daniel* came from Woodbury, in 1748. He lived on the place formerly occupied by Zenas Beebe, below Mr. Orton's. He sold out to Deacon Landers, in 1760, and left the town.

*Reed, Moses* was the first settler on the place lately owned by Capt. Abraham Pratt. He came to Sharon in 1743, and died November 17, 1786, at the age of ninety. He left one son, Moses Reed, Jun.

*Rexford, Arthur* was from Wallingford, in 1757. He lived in Ellsworth, a little south of Dr. Russell Everett's. He had four sons, *Arthur, Joseph, Daniel* and *Benjamin*.

*Rice, Asa* was from Wallingford, now Meriden, in 1774. He lived in Ellsworth, where Dr. Russell Everett now lives. He died in 1785, leaving sons, *Asa, Seth, Isaac* and *Barnabas*.

*Richards, Nathaniel* was from Norwich, in 1744, and settled on the lot lately owned by Samuel Beecher. He died in 1763, and the property passed into the hands of George White. There are none of his descendants now remaining in the town.

*Richmond, Benjamin* was one of the first proprietors and settlers, and came to Sharon in 1742. He lived a short distance below Lovell W. Chapman's, and died in 1766. He had one son, *Edward*, who removed to Spencertown, N. Y. in 1757.

*Roberts, Nathaniel* was from Salisbury, in 1759. He lived in Abel street, a little north of Stephen Tickner's. He died July 15, 1766, at the age of fifty-five. He left sons, *John, William, Lebbeus* and *Amos*.

*Rockwell, Dr. Samuel* was born in East Windsor, February 18, 1759. While he was young his father

removed to Colebrook, and was one of the first settlers of that township. In 1776, he was in the army, for which he drew a pension, after 1831. He entered Yale College in 1779, but soon left that institution and commenced the study of medicine, under the celebrated Dr. Lemuel Hopkins. He settled in Sharon in 1784, and, except about five years, when he lived in Salisbury, remained here till his death, which occurred on the 24th of June, 1836, at the age of seventy-seven. He represented the town in the legislature at the sessions in 1815.

*Rowlee, Jonathan* was from East Haddam, in 1741, and lived near David Woodard's. He staid in town but a short time. He removed to Kent, and lived a little north of the meeting-house. He died in 1772, leaving sons, *Simeon, Jonathan, Levi, Judah* and *Issachar*, several of whom settled in and near Sharon. *Levi* lived where Daniel Clark now lives. He died of a cancer, November 23, 1805, at the age of seventy-three. *Simeon*, was the father of Mrs. Hamlin, widow of Deacon Benjamin Hamlin.

*St. John, Deacon Matthew* was from Norwalk, in 1745. He bought of Samuel Comstock, the thirty-second home-lot, now owned by Caleb and Richard B. Cole. He was one of the deacons of the church, and was several years one of the selectmen of the town. He died August 3, 1755, at the age of sixty-nine. He had four sons, who bore the names of the four Evangelists, *Matthew, Mark, Luke* and *John*. *Matthew* removed to Suffield. His only child was the mother of Joel Chaffee. *Mark* lived where George Bissell formerly lived. *Luke* was a tailor by trade, and lived where Josiah Hull now lives. These last two removed to Stockbridge, Mass. *John* lived a little south of Philo Hamlin's. He died December 30, 1784, at the age of sixty-two. The only descend-

ant of this numerous family bearing the name, is *Daniel St. John*.

*St. John, Timothy* came from Norwalk in 1756. He lived where Daniel Parsons, Esq. now lives. He died November 28, 1806, at the age of seventy-four. His only son, Daniel St. John, Esq. is yet living in Hartford, at the age of eighty-two.

*St. John, Daniel* was a brother of the preceding, and came to Sharon in 1761. He lived where the late Ezekiel St. John lived. He was a blacksmith by occupation. He died in 1781, leaving sons, *Thomas, Lewis, Uriah* and *Caleb*.

*St. John, Silas* was also a brother of Timothy and Daniel St. John. He lived in Ellsworth, near the place where his son, Capt. Silas St. John now lives. He was the first deacon of the church in Ellsworth, and was for several years town treasurer. He died September 21, 1805, at the age of sixty-four.

*Sanford, Amos* was from Newtown in 1768. He lived opposite Freeman W. Parsons' present residence. He died December 19, 1777, aged forty-four, leaving sons, *David, Ezra, John, Samuel, Caleb, Salmon* and *Amos*.

*Sears, Capt. Stephen* was originally from Barnstable, Mass. His parents settled at a place called *Jo's hill*, in the town of South East, Putnam county, N. Y. He came to Sharon about 1760. He lived where his grandson Benjamin Sears, now lives. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and in that capacity superintended the erection of the meeting-house built in 1768. He died of the yellow fever in New York, where he was at work at his trade, in 1791. He was the father of Dr. John Sears. His widow died February 8, 1834, at the age of ninety-four.

*Shepherd, Dr. Asher* came from Hartford, in 1772,



and was a partner with Dr. Simeon Smith, in the druggist business. He built the house known as the *Grosvenor house*, opposite Jay S. Canfield's, in 1774. In 1778 he removed to Bennington, Vt. and kept a druggist store successively at Bennington and Rutland, where he died in 1788.

*Skiff, Benjamin* was from the town of Chilmark, on the island of Martha's Vineyard, and came to Sharon in 1774. He lived in Ellsworth, where Gibbs Skiff now lives. He died February 20, 1811, at the age of seventy-four. He had sons, *Walter, John, Seth* and *Benjamin*.

*Skiff, Samuel* was a cousin of the preceding and came from the same place. He lived where Samuel Skiff now lives. He died in 1825, leaving sons, *Samuel, Arvin, Gibbs* and *Asa*.

*Skinner, Nathaniel* Esq. was from Colchester, and was one of the first and principal proprietors of the township. He drew the twenty-sixth home-lot, known as the *Patchen place*, where Mrs. Lowrey now lives. He was the first magistrate, first town clerk and first deacon of the church. He remained in town until 1760, when he removed to Salisbury, and was an owner of the mill now known as Benedict's mill. He had sons, *Nathaniel, Thomas, Joseph* and *Josiah*. There are none of the family now residing in the town.

*Smith, James* was from Bolton and was one of the original proprietors. He drew the eighteenth home-lot, which lay on both sides of the town street, and bounding south on the highway leading by Lovel W. Chapman's. Mr. Smith was the first person ever chosen constable in the town, and was elected to that office for three successive years. In 1747 he removed to the north part of North East, N. Y. where he lived to a great age.

*Smith, Theophilus* was a brother of the preceding, and first lived near where Mrs. Deming now lives. In 1749, he bought of Mica Mudge the grist mill known as *Gay's mill*, now owned by Major Gould. He sold this in 1757, to Colonel Ebenezer Gay, and removed to the south-east part of the town, near where Lorin Emons now lives. He was one of the owners of the grist-mill and saw-mill near his house. He died in 1799. He had two sons, *Theophilus* and *Levi*, who are both now deceased.\*

*Smith, Samuel* was from the *Great Nine Partners. N. Y.* and came to Sharon in 1754. He was a blacksmith by trade, and lived on the *Burr place*, in the valley. He was a selectman for several years. He sold his property in Sharon in 1766, to Joel Harvey, and returned to the state of New York. He lived in the large house which is yet standing on *De La Vergne's hill*, and kept a tavern there for many years.

*Smith, Dr. Simeon* was a younger brother of the Rev. *Cotton Mather Smith*. He came to Sharon about 1756, and was a physician of extensive practice. He kept a large store of drugs and medicines, importing his articles direct from London. In 1776, he commanded a company of six months men, and was on service in the vicinity of New York. He was a large land-holder and built the large stone house now owned by Gov. Smith. He represented the town in the legislature at several sessions. He went to *West Haven, Vt.* in 1787, and there resided till his death in February, 1804. He left no children. He was a man of great activity and enterprize.

*Smith, Paul* was the youngest brother of Rev. *Cot-*

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\* Another brother of this family, of the name of *Azariah*, settled in the town of North East, N. Y. near the present residence of Douglas Clark, Esq. He was the grand-father of Dr. John W. Smith, now living in Sharon.

*ton M. Smith*, and came to Sharon in 1770. He lived in the house originally built by *Job Gibbs*, next north of Jay S. Canfield's, now owned by Dr. Robert W. Smith. He was a constable of the town for a great number of years. He died March 28, 1825, at the age of ninety.

*Smith, Dr. Phineas* was a son of Dan Smith, an elder brother of Rev. Cotton M. Smith. He came to Sharon when young and resided with his uncle Dr. Simeon Smith, by whom he was educated as a physician. He relinquished the practice and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He built the house owned by the late Cyrus Swan, Esq. He died June 4, 1794, at the age of forty.

*Smith, Apollos* was a younger brother of Phineas Smith, who came to Sharon in early life, and resided with his uncle Dr. Smith, by whom he was assisted in establishing an extensive pottery before the revolutionary war, which proved a profitable business. He built the brick house owned by Lovel W. Chapman. He removed to West Haven, Vt. in 1802, where he died a few years after.

*Smith, Deacon Paul Jun.* was a son of Paul Smith, and was born in Suffield, in 1763. He came to Sharon with his father, and resided here until his death. He was elected a deacon of the church, in 1793, and discharged the duties of that office with great fidelity and acceptance for forty-six years. He was a man of great sweetness of temper, modest and unobtrusive in his manners, and the principles of the holy religion which he professed were beautifully exhibited in his daily walk. He died without an enemy, on the 30th day of September, 1838. He had sons, *Seabury*, *Chauncey* and *Richard*. *Chauncey* died in Missouri, some years since.

*Smith, David* was from Litchfield and came to Sharon in 1801. He lived on the Ousatonie river, where his son, the late Hon. Horatio Smith resided. He joined the society of Friends in 1781, and is supposed to be the only member of that society that ever resided in Sharon. He died April 3d, 1825, at the age of seventy-three. He was the father of the late Rev. Gad Smith and Ransom Smith, Esq. still surviving.

*Spafford, Thomas* was an original proprietor from Lebanon, and drew the thirteenth home-lot, on which Horace Reed now lives. Not being satisfied with his lot he availed himself of the privilege accorded to each proprietor of throwing it into the common stock, and in lieu of it laid out a home-lot about half a mile west of the meeting-house, now owned by deacon William M. Smith. He died in 1752. There are some of his descendants in the town.

*Spencer, Alexander* was one of the first settlers from East Haddam, and he lived where Daniel Woodruff now resides. In 1760 he removed to Oblong, N. Y. where he died the next year. He had but one son, Alexander Spencer, Jun. who was a volunteer in Arnold's expedition to Quebec, in 1775, through the wilderness of Kennebeck. He died on the March.

*Sprague, Capt. John* was from Lebanon, in 1739. He drew the thirty-seventh home-lot, on which the Messrs. Prindle now live. He was a selectman for several years, and what is singular, he could not write his  
his name. The words "*John + Sprague*" are  
mark

appended to many official documents on our records. He built the first framed house in the town. In 1748, he exchanged farms with Cornelius Knickerbacker, and removed to Furnace Village, in Salisbury. He

afterwards removed to Canaan, where he died in 1760. He had three sons, *Jonathan*, *Ebenezer* and *John*, the last of whom went to Canaan with his father. *Jonathan* settled where our pauper asylum now is, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-four. *Ebenezer* lived where *Osman Heath* lives.

*Stedman, Robert* was one of the first settlers and came to Sharon in 1743. He lived on the road leading west from *Anson Boland's*, and the barn which he erected is still standing. In 1782 he removed to *Rupert, Vermont*.

*Strong Caleb* was from *Colchester* in 1743. He first settled on the mountain near *Calvin Jackson's*, which place he sold to *Thomas Day* in 1755. He afterwards lived near *Freeman W. Parson's*. He was a large landholder at different times, but he died poor.

*Epitaph.*

In memory of Mr. *CALEB STRONG*, who died  
August 22, 1789, aged seventy-six.

Our mortal breath  
Must yield to death.

*Strong, Josiah* was originally from *Colchester*, but lived a while in *Litchfield*. He came to Sharon in 1747, and settled where *David W. Woodard* now lives. He died of the small-pox in 1761, leaving sons, *Josiah*, *Elijah*, *Solomon*, *David* and *Joseph*. He was a selectman of the town for several years. *David* was a lieutenant in the continental army.

*Strong, Josiah Jun.* was a grandson of the preceding, and was born in Sharon, June 16, 1758. His life was eventful as illustrating the dangers and sufferings of a revolutionary soldier, in the course of two years active service. He enlisted into *Capt. Downs'* company in 1776, and marched to Canada. He was taken prisoner with the rest of the company, at the Cedars, on the 19th of May following. They were



released by General Arnold, on his return from Quebec, and Mr. Strong returned to Sharon. He immediately enlisted into Captain Smith's company, and joined the army under General Washington. He was in the battles of *White Plains*, *Trenton*, *Princeton*, *Brandywine* and *Germantown*, in which last action he was so severely wounded in the leg as to render amputation necessary. He was of course, compelled to leave the army, but he carried with him an honorable discharge from General Washington. He was placed upon the roll of invalid pensioners. He died lately at Geneva, N. Y.

*Studley, Joshua* was from Hanover, Mass. in 1771. He settled in the south part of Ellsworth. He died November 22, 1810, at the age of sixty-eight. He left two sons *Gideon* and *Ichabod*, the last of whom is yet living.

*Swain, John* was from Branford in 1745. He lived near the place where Benjamin Bates now lives. He died in 1755, leaving sons, *Daniel*, *James*, *Isaac* and *Jonathan*.

*Swan, Cyrus Esq.* was born in Stonington, in 1770. He was in early life engaged in mercantile pursuits, in the District of Maine. He afterwards pursued the study of law, and established himself in the practice in this town in 1798. He was a successful practitioner, and acquired a respectable standing at the bar. He died August 20, 1835, aged sixty-five.

*Sweetland, Rowland* was the first settler on the place where Eli Rowley lives. He sold his place in 1768, to Daniel Curtice, and removed to the Lyman place, in the Great Hollow, where he died.

*Taylor, Gen. Augustine* was from New Milford in 1784. He purchased of Robert G. Livingston, who had come to Sharon during the revolutionary war, the

place now called the *Taylor place*, where he resided until 1815, when he left the town. He rose to the rank of major general in the militia, and for a while commanded the troops which were stationed for the defence of New London, during the late war with England. He died soon after he removed.

*Thurstin, Amos* lived in the Great Hollow, near the school-house. He came to Sharon in 1768, and remained here until 1785, when he sold his place to Ebenezer Dibble, and removed to Ballstown, N. Y.

*Tickner, William* was from Lebanon in 1739. He drew the thirty-eighth home-lot, next north of Mr. Sprague's. He was a respectable man. He died in 1760, leaving sons, *William, Jonathan* and *Daniel*, who all left the town soon after the death of their father.

*Tickner, John* was a brother of the preceding, and came from Lebanon in 1749. He settled in the Great Hollow, on land which his father had previously bought of Bezaleel Tyler. He died at the age of forty-nine. He left sons, *John, Benajah, Elisha* and *David*. *Benajah* was the father of Dr. Benajah Tickner of the U. S. navy, and of Dr. Luther Tickner, of Salisbury.

*Tobey, Elisha* was from the old Plymouth colony. He lived many years where Stephen Knibloe now lives. In 1792 he removed to Alford, Mass. He died in Salisbury, on his way to visit his friends in Sharon. He had sons, *Jonathan, Barnabas, Heman, Silvanus, Ephraim, Elisha* and *Benjamin*.

*Tyler, Bezaleel* was from Branford and was the first settler on the place now occupied by Mrs. Deming. He died August 29, 1760, at the age of seventy-seven. He left sons, *Bezaleel, Benjamin, Amos, Charles, Gideon, Timothy* and *Nathaniel*.

*Waldo, Cyprian* was from Windham in 1770. He purchased of Gideon Hollister, a part of the thirty-sixth home-lot, where Virgil B. Roberts now lives.

He resided there till his death in 1797. He left sons, *Alfred, Bradford, David R. and Zacheus.*

*Warren, Lieut. James* lived on the place now owned by Benjamin Hollister, Esq. He had no children. He died May 14, 1788, aged seventy-six.

*Way, George* was from Lyme. He settled opposite the *Deforest house* in the Gay district, and lived there for a number of years. He was the first grand-juror in the town. He had one son *John*, who lived on the hill west of *Freeman W. Parsons'*.

*White, George* was from Wareham, Mass. and was the first settler on the place owned by the late Chesterfield Chapman. He came to Sharon in 1747. He had three sons, *John, George* and *Archelaus*. *John* removed to Alford, Mass. where he died in 1775. He was the father of the late Solomon White and grand-father of George White, now living.

*White, Israel* was from Danbury in 1775. He settled in the Great Hollow, where he purchased a large and valuable farm of David Wood. Mr. White died in 1820, at the age of eighty-nine. He had sons, *James, John, Sanford, Israel* and *Stephen*, and his descendants yet remaining in the town are numerous.

*Williams, Colonel John* was originally a physician and came to Sharon in 1743 from Lebanon. He was for many years a very distinguished inhabitant of the town. He lived nearly opposite Judge Sterling's, and the house which he occupied was standing twenty-five years since. He was elected town-clerk in the fall of 1745, which office he held twenty-nine successive years, till his death. Previous to his appointment the records had been badly kept, and a good part of them are very unintelligible; but from the time they passed into his hands they were kept with great accuracy. It would seem, that for nearly thirty years, he wrote

almost every deed which passed title to real estate in Sharon, judging from the fact that they were nearly all witnessed by him, and acknowledged before him, and it is interesting to observe with what remarkable accuracy and strict legal propriety they are all expressed. He held the office of selectman seventeen years, and was chosen member of the Assembly at twenty-seven different sessions, being the first ever chosen to that office in the town. When the county of Litchfield was organized in 1751, he was appointed one of the judges of the county court, and in about five years afterwards was made chief judge. He was also the first judge of probate for the district of Sharon, which was established in 1755, which offices he held while he lived. He also went through several military grades, and for several years commanded a regiment of colonial militia. There are those now living who have a distinct recollection of his personal appearance, and of the very influential character he sustained in the affairs of the town. He was a man of tall and slender frame, but of great gravity and very dignified deportment, and his word was law. He was a deacon in the church from June 1766 till his death. He died on Sunday, March 14, 1774, at the age of sixty-eight, and as it was in the exciting times which immediately preceded the revolution, and he had been a military character, he was buried with military honors. His sword was borne upon his coffin, and volleys of musketry were fired over his grave. The funeral services were performed under the direction of Capt. David Downs. He left a number of children but none remain among us. John A. Elliott is his grand-son.

*Wood, Abel* was from Wareham, Mass. in 1748. He settled in the valley, on the lot now owned by Henry Hotchkiss, which he purchased of John Gray.

He died January 20, 1798, at the age of eighty-six. He had three sons, *Ephraim*, *Elijah* and *Barnabas*, the two latter of whom lived to a very advanced age. *Elijah Wood*, now living, is a grand-son of Abel Wood.

*Wood, David* was from Ridgefield, and was the first settler upon what is called the *White place*, in the Great Hollow. He came to Sharon in 1754, and in 1777, sold his place to *Israel White*, of Danbury, and removed to Ballstown, N. Y. He had sons, *David*, *Stephen*, *Caleb* and *Benjamin*. *David* was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, in 1776, and died in the prison ship at New York. *Caleb* died in Sharon. *Stephen* and *Benjamin* removed to Ballstown with their father.

*Woodruff, Elias* was from Southampton, Long Island, in 1768. He purchased a part of the ninth home-lot of Amos Tyler, and lived on it till his death, June 17, 1807, at the age of seventy. His house stood a little north of Dr. Deming's present residence. He left sons, *Daniel*, *James*, *Ithamir*, *Salmon* and *Ewart*, of whom Daniel is the only one remaining in town.

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## APPENDIX.

### No. 1.

The following is a roll of the representatives from the town of Sharon, to the General Assembly, commencing in 1755, when the town was first represented.

May Session.	October Session.
1755 ——— ———,	John Williams,
————— ———,	John Pardee.
1756 John Marvin,	John Williams,
————— ———,	John Pardee.
1757 John Williams,	John Williams,
Josiah Strong,	Josiah Strong.
1753 John Williams,	John Williams,
Samuel Dunham.	John Pardee.



1759	—————, —————,	—————, —————,
	—————.	—————.
1760	Samuel Dunham,	Josiah Strong,
	John Pardee.	Caleb Jewitt.
1761	Caleb Jewitt,	John Williams,
	John Gay.	John Pardee.
1762	John Williams,	John Williams,
	John Pardee.	Caleb Jewitt.
1763	John Williams,	John Williams;
	Caleb Jewitt.	David Foster.
1764	John Williams,	John Williams,
	Caleb Jewitt.	David Foster.
1765	John Williams,	—————,
	Caleb Jewitt.	Caleb Jewitt.
1766	John Williams,	John Williams,
	Caleb Jewitt.	Jeremiah Day.
1767	John Williams,	John Williams,
	Jeremiah Day.	Simeon Smith.
1768	John Marvin,	John Williams,
	Thomas Pardee.	Thomas Pardee.
1769	John Williams,	John Williams,
	James Pardee.	Thomas Pardee.
1770	Simeon Smith,	John Williams,
	Thomas Pardee.	Caleb Jewitt.
1771	John Williams,	John Williams,
	Simeon Smith.	Simeon Smith.
1772	John Williams,	John Williams,
	Simeon Smith.	Simeon Smith.
1773	John Williams,	—————,
	James Pardee.	James Pardee.
1774	James Pardee,	Ebenezer Gay,
	Ebenezer Gay.	Thomas Pardee.
1775	Ebenezer Gay,	John Canfield,
	James Pardee.	Caleb Jewitt.
1776	John Canfield,	Ebenezer Gay,
	Caleb Jewitt.	James Pardee.
1777	John Canfield,	James Pardee,
	Simeon Smith.	Joseph Lord.
1778	Ebenezer Gay,	Ebenezer Gay;
	James Pardee.	David Downs.
1779	John Canfield,	John Canfield,
	Samuel Elmore.	Ebenezer Gay.
1780	Samuel Elmore,	Samuel Canfield,
	James Pardee.	David Downs.
1781	—————,	—————,
	—————.	Samuel Elmore.
1782	David Downs,	John Canfield,
	Joseph Landers.	David Downs.

1783	Simeon Smith, David Downs.	Ebenezer Gay, Josiah Coleman.
1784	Ebenezer Gay, Josiah Coleman.	John Canfield, Simeon Smith,
1785	John Canfield, Simeon Smith.	John Canfield, Simeon Smith,
1786	John Canfield, Simeon Smith.	—————, Simeon Smith.
1787	Jonathan Gillet, Ephraim Marriner.	—————, Jonathan Gillet.
1788	Ephraim Marriner, Josiah Coleman.	Ephraim Marriner. David Downs.
1789	David Downs, Isaac Pardee.	David Downs, Isaac Pardee.
1790	David Downs, Isaac Pardee.	Augustine Taylor, Phineas Smith.
1791	Phineas Smith, Augustine Taylor.	Phineas Smith, Judson Canfield.
1792	Phineas Smith, Judson Canfield.	Augustine Taylor, Judson Canfield.
1793	Judson Canfield, John C. Smith.	David Downs, Samuel Canfield.
1794	Samuel Canfield, David Downs.	Samuel Canfield, David Downs.
1795	David Downs, James Pardee.	Samuel Canfield, Enoch Parsons.
1796	Samuel Canfield, John C. Smith.	John C. Smith, Augustine Taylor.
1797	John C. Smith. Oliver Kellogg.	John C. Smith, Samuel Canfield.
1798	John C. Smith, Oliver Kellogg.	John C. Smith, Abel Patchen.
1799	John C. Smith, Abel Patchen.	John C. Smith, Isaac Pardee.
1800	John C. Smith, Oliver Kellogg.	John C. Smith, George King.
1801	Oliver Kellogg, George King.	Augustine Taylor, Isaac Pardee.
1802	Judson Canfield, Augustine Taylor.	Judson Canfield, Augustine Taylor.
1803	Judson Canfield, Daniel St. John.	Judson Canfield, Daniel St. John.
1804	Judson Canfield, Isaac Pardee.	Judson Canfield, Isaac Pardee.
1805	Judson Canfield, Isaac Pardee.	Isaac Pardee, Daniel St. John.
1806	Judson Canfield, Isaac Pardee.	Judson Canfield, John C. Smith.

1807	John C. Smith, Judson Canfield.	John C. Smith, Daniel St. John.
1808	John C. Smith, Judson Canfield.	John C. Smith, Judson Canfield.
1809	John C. Smith, Judson Canfield,	Isaac Pardee, Simeon Blackman.
1810	Simeon Blackman, Oliver Kellogg.	Cyrus Swan, Simeon Blackman.
1811	Simeon Blackman, Oliver Kellogg.	Simeon Blackman, Samuel E. Everitt.
1812	Oliver Kellogg, Samuel E. Everitt.	Isaac Pardee, Samuel E. Everitt.
1813	Oliver Kellogg, Samuel E. Everitt.	Cyrus Swan, Samuel E. Everitt.
1814	Oliver Kellogg, Samuel E. Everitt.	Cyrus Swan, Samuel E. Everitt.
1815	Oliver Kellogg, Ansel Sterling.	Samuel Rockwell, Daniel St. John.
1816	Oliver Kellogg, Samuel Rockwell.	Cyrus Swan, Israel Camp.
1817	Oliver Kellogg, Israel Camp.	Oliver Kellogg, Thomas St. John.
1818	Hezekiah Goodwin, Thomas St. John.	Oliver Kellogg, Ansel Sterling.
1819	Oliver Kellogg, Ansel Sterling.	
1820	Oliver Kellogg, Ansel Sterling.	
1821	Ansel Sterling, Samuel R. Gager.	
1822	Samuel R. Gager, Samuel Roberts.	
1823	Samuel Roberts, Horatio Smith.	
1824	Horatio Smith, Cyrus Swan.	
1825	Ansel Sterling, Cyrus Swan.	
1826	Ansel Sterling, Horatio Smith.	
1827	Cyrus Swan, Calvin Gay.	
1828	Cyrus Swan, Calvin Gay.	
1829	Ansel Sterling, Samuel R. Gager.	
1830	Charles F. Sedgwick, Clark Chapman.	
1831	Charles F. Sedgwick, Israel Camp.	
1832	Israel Camp, Samuel E. Everitt.	
1833	Clark Chapman, John C. Smith, Jr.	
1834	Horatio Smith, John C. Smith, Jr.	
1835	Ansel Sterling, Ralph Deming.	
1836	Ansel Sterling, Zacheus W. Bissell.	
1837	Ansel Sterling, Elmore Everitt.	
1838	Elmore Everitt, Alanson Wheeler.	
1839	Alanson Wheeler, Ralph Deming.	
1840	Elmore Everitt, Horace Reed.	
1841	Zacheus W. Bissell, Richard Smith.	

## No. 2.

The following persons have officiated as magistrates in the town :

Nathaniel Skinner, Samuel Hutchinson, John Williams, Daniel Griswold, Joseph Lord, John Gay, John Canfield, David Downs, Isaac Pardee, Augustine Taylor, Judson Canfield, John Cotton Smith, Daniel St. John, Calvin Gay, Samuel E. Everitt, Oliver Kellogg, Cyrus Swan, Ansel Sterling, Samuel Rockwell, Horatio Smith, Samuel Roberts, Stephen Deming, Stephen Heath, Israel Camp, Charles F. Sedgwick, Oliver Kellogg, Jun. Jacob Chamberlain, Ebenezer Blackman, Joshua B. Chaffee, Richard Smith, Benjamin Hollister, Alanson Wheeler, John W. McKoy, Ransom Smith, Zacheus W. Bissell, Samuel Roberts, Jun. Silas A. Gray, William Everett, Daniel Parsons, Ralph Deming.

## No. 3.

*Town Clerks.*

Nathaniel Skinner, Ebenezer Frisbie, John Williams, Daniel Griswold, Samuel Canfield, Israel Camp, George King, Jun. Henry H. Quintard.

## No. 4.

The following attorneys and counsellors at law have practised in the town.

John Canfield, Judson Canfield, John Cotton Smith, Cyrus Swan, Joel T. Petit, William G. Williams, Ansel Sterling, Charles R. Brown, Chauncey Smith, Ebenezer Blackman, Charles F. Sedgwick, Frederick J. Fenn, Richard Smith.

## No. 5.

*Physicians.*

John Williams, Abner Peck, John Lee, Daniel Griswold, Simeon Smith, Joseph Hamilton, Ashbel Goodrich, David Doty, Jonah Barnes, Phineas Smith, Samuel R. Gager, Samuel Rockwell, Simeon Black-

man, Nathaniel Lowrey, John W. Smith, John Sears, Curtiss J. Hurd, Elmore Everitt, Milo L. North, Ebenezer H. Conklin; Jehiel Abbott, Russell Everett, Ralph Deming, Horace A. Buttolph, Nathan S. Perry.

No. 6.

*Deacons of the Congregational Churches.*

*First Society.*

Nathaniel Skinner, Hezekiah King, Ebenezer Frisbie, Jonathan Elmer, Matthew St. John, Ebenezer Jackson, Timothy Carrier, John Williams, Daniel Griswold, Gain Miller, Joseph Landers, Benjamin Hamlin, Paul Smith, Jun. Isaac Chamberlain, Aaron Reed, William M. Smith.

*Ellsworth.*

Silas St. John, Abel Woodard, Amos Seymour, Jabez Swift, Calvin Peck, Nathan Dunbar, William Everett, Abel C. Woodard.

No. 7.

The following Hymn composed by the Hon. JOHN COTTON SMITH, was sung at the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the first town meeting, December 22, 1839.

O bless the Lord, whose mighty hand  
Led our forefathers o'er the main,  
To spread throughout this distant land,  
Fair freedom's just and gentle reign.

Not cold, nor want, nor foes array'd,  
Could the firm Pilgrim's zeal restrain,  
They trusted in their Saviour's aid,  
Nor did His servants trust in vain.

Through dangers, toils and anxious cares,  
God was their guardian and their stay;  
And gave in answer to their prayers,  
The blessings we enjoy this day.

One century round these hills and plains,  
Have the Redeemer's praises rung,  
Still let them rise in lofty strains,  
From every heart and every tongue.























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